

ILLUSTRATED TALES TO BEWITCH & BEDEVIL YOU



VAMPI
#6
JULY

VAMPIRELLA

A WARREN MAGAZINE PDC

Is it possible to escape from your grave?
See what happens to DARKWORTH... on page 21



Colby

50c

VAMPI'S FEARY TALES



THE CENTAUR GALLOPED OVER THE FOOTHILLS OF THESSALY IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF GREEK MYTHOLOGY. HALF-MAN---HALF-HORSE, CENTAUR BECAME LEGENDARY FOR THEIR JOLLY DRUNKENNESS AND THEIR DEVIL-MAY-CARE ATTITUDE IN COURTING HOOF-LESS HUMAN WOMEN. A CENTAUR IS SHOWN HERE WITH THE BRIDE OF THE GREEK KING PIROTHOUS. THE MOST FAMOUS OF CENTAURS WAS CHIRON, THE PERSONAL TEACHER AND ADVISOR OF ACHILLES, JASON AND HERCULES ---THREE OF GREECE'S GREATEST HEROS...





VAMPIRELLA

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VAMPI'S



SCARLET LETTERS

I just want to say that I and a lot of other people think that **VAMPIRELLA** is the best. It's the most exciting magazine on the market. But what I really want to tell you is that I'm dying to have a big, big pin-up of Vampi. And so are a lot of other people. Please don't disappoint us. We want those pin-ups in a hurry. We all love you, some of us are even crazy about you. As soon as those pin-ups are available, I'm going to buy a dozen.

TERRY CLARK
Dallas, Texas

I hope you don't have to wait much longer. But we want the pin-ups to be perfect before offering them.

I don't really know what to say. I've never been in love with a vampire before. How about telling the world a few things about yourself? Like what are your measurements? Do you really look like Frank Frazetta portrays you? If you do, I'd like a date! I know it would be my last one, but if there's anyone in the world I'd gladly donate my blood to, it's you.

Your magazine is absolutely great. It's the weirdest, sexiest, the most fantastic literature that has ever appeared on my dealer's shelf. I'm looking forward to seeing more of you. Why not set a precedent in horror magazines by having a monthly centerfold of you and only you.

GARY CHARWIN
Fords, N.J.

If we had a centerfold, we wouldn't sell many pin-ups, would we? My measurements are a secret. We don't want the competition to know all the intimate details.

“**Vampi, you're a real, swinging chick!**”

The cover of **VAMPIRELLA** #4 was pretty good, but the inside art was a big let-down. The best effort of the magazine was the cover story, “Forgotten Kingdom.” The combination of SF, suspense, and beasties made it nearly perfect.

Anyway, your distribution system doesn't work too well in Texas. I've only seen one copy of #4 in about seven stores. No wonder you have to offer special subscription rates.

BOB WAYNE
Fort Worth, Tex.

Could it be that those stores were all sold out? It is possible, you know. But feel free to take advantage of our special price for a subscription. Then keep on touring newsstands putting the **VAMPIRELLAS** up front where everybody can see them.

I didn't buy the first three issues of your magazine because I thought it would be boring. When I bought #4, I flipped! As soon as I had finished, I wrote right away for those first three from your

back issue department. Keep up the good work. Pretty soon I'll be sending for a subscription.

FRANK KOZIEL
Chicago, Ill.



Vampi, you must be biting my neck (or is it “pulling my leg”?). Have you been letting Mr. St. Clair loose with his Spirograph again? I'm referring to his wild designs in “Forgotten Kingdom,” the cover story in your issue #4. I'm not saying it was a bad job. The fact is, I like his

style. But don't you think 25 of those designs is a bit ridiculous?

Well, anyway, I think this issue was a bloody success that could top the best of Uncle Creepy or Cousin Eerie any day. Keep up the excellent work and thanks for giving us a fan club page.

MIKE SWANSON
St. James, N.Y.

Oh, I don't know, Mike. The way I hear it, a lot of people have designs on me. I just love it when one of them puts it on paper.

They have some very weird, supernatural traditions in this part of the world. (Thailand.) If you can, try to get hold of some Oriental ghost stories to read. And if you ever have a chance, try to take in a Japanese or Chinese horror film of the traditional type. They're superbly terrifying!

ED SITCH
Thailand

I have seen some, and I agree. Why not send us a story or two for our new “Vampi's Flames” page?



RABID READER RESPONSE to stories about Draculon, as indicated in letters such as these, has inspired a series of Vampi's further adventures to appear future issues. Watch for them!

I was lucky enough to get the number one Collector's Edition of **VAMPIRELLA**, and I'm now a subscriber. I think your magazine is groovy and I hope it will be a big hit like **CREEPY** and **EERIE**. What ever happened to you after you landed on earth in issue #3? You weren't even in issue #4. I just had a great idea: Why don't you print a paperback book about your life on Draculon? Why are you going to have a Fan Club? And when are you going to have pin-ups of yourself?

EDDIE BOGGS
Westminster, S.C.

I really dig your magazine. But, while it's great, it could be even greater. Your first issue included the great story on Vampi's origin. And you had that fantastic prologue to “October,” where they burned that girl at the stake. Since then, your magazine hasn't quite lived up to the

high quality of those two stories. Please—in the future—how about more like those!

GEORGE SLATTER
Dayton, Ind.

Like you, I am a vampire. Haven't I seen you on my home planet, Drakulon? If you were not born there, then you may have visited there at one time. If not, let me tell you about it:

Drakulon is the first planet of the Vamperiea star system. Our sun, Vamperiea, is a blood red sun. It is a very dim sun that bathes our planet in a red glow, not much brighter than the light cast by the Earth's Moon when it is full. So we never have to worry about the sun's destructive rays. We get our food in the form of blood that grows on plants that thrive in the light of our sun.

In Earth terms I am 3,655 years old. But on Drakulon, I'm only 16. I was born in the

fourth month of the Krylon, which is equal to 200 years here on this planet.

I am 6 feet tall, I have straight brown hair and misty gray eyes. I speak with a slight Drakulonion accent, which here on Earth is interpreted as a slight lisp. The reason I left my home planet is that the bright sunlight of this world doesn't bother me, and the food supply here is excellent. But I do find it necessary to wear dark glasses here. My real name is Searon Remick, though I never use it now that I have come here.

CHARLES GROVER
Galesville, Wisc.

It's a small world! Only last week, I had a note from my sister, Draculina, who still lives back on Drakulon. The first thing she asked was “What ever became of good old Searon Remick?”. I can't wait to tell her.

"I've never been in love with a vampire, before!"

I think that **VAMPIRELLA**, is the coolest, swingingest, best-looking vampire ever created. She ought to be on television. If other comic book characters (no offense!) can make it, why can't a good-looking girl vampire get her own TV show? If crazy, out-of-it weirdos can get on by just acting stupid, why can't a fun-loving, blood-thirsty, good-looking vampire get her own show? It makes me mad!

DAVID LUTZ
New Brighton, Pa.

Makes me mad, too, Dave. Maybe we should all stop watching television and spend more time reading magazines like this one.

The cover on issue #4 was fab! It was very mysterious-looking, and interesting at the same time. But please don't put borders on your covers. I'm starting a collection of your magazines and I hope they're all as good as the past issues. Please let us have more stories about Vampi. I'd like to learn more about her, and her plans for the future. For some reason,

when I'm at the lakeshore at night and the moon is shining, I get the feeling it is trying to tell me something. I've always liked full moons, but don't know why I feel that way. But that day when I reached for an issue of **EERIE** and saw the first issue of **VAMPIRELLA**, I knew for the first time what the moon meant. Vampi is here to stay. I think she's just great.

PAUL BENNETT
Aigcourt, Ontario



Maybe you're part vampire Paul, I've always had a strange feeling about full moons myself.

Vampi, I really loved issue #4. The stories were great, and the art was wonderful, too. I've read **CREEPY** and **EERIE**, and I think they're pretty good, but your magazine is really outstanding. The trouble is, issue #4 was the only time I have ever seen your magazine in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Were the first three issues sent here? Please use more stories about yourself in future issues. In the letters page in issue #4, I read about someone called



Cousin Eviy—
Kittenish cut-up

"Eviy." I gather she's your cousin. Let's have a few stories about her, too.

PAMELA INGLEHUT
Santa Fe, N.M.

Vampi, you're a real swinging chick. But I'm afraid you're a little too swinging. Like for instance, your costume. I guess that's the reason those weirdos at 22 E. 42nd Street named you **VAMPIRELLA**!

Now, for your great mag, which is supremely better than **CREEPY** or **EERIE**. Much better. But, I'll have to admit those squares have wised up and improved their own magazines. Because they are both much better since you were

"born." Probably your second issue was the best so far because of a great story and illustration job. But I sure thought your third issue stunk!

Keep those issues like #2 and I'll keep these cards and letters coming. And if you organize a fan club, you can count me in all the way.

CHRIS DUFFIE
Monterey, Cal.



You know what they say, Chris; behind every great man there's a woman. Congratulations on being the first to notice my influence on those other two characters. Sorry the third issue didn't match the second. I think we can expect cards and letters from those who don't agree with you!

We think all our artists can draw girls. What do you think? Send us your comments, puffs and pans. And address all those cards and letters from magazine-land to:

VAMPIRELLA
22 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

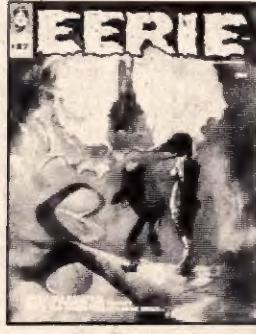
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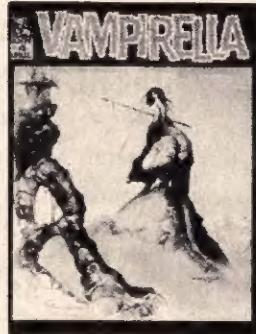
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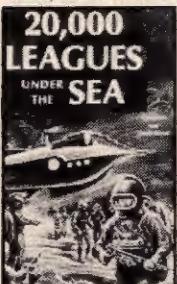
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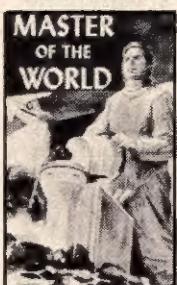
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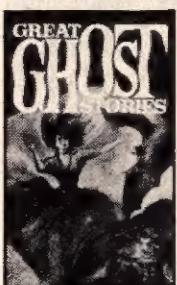
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Remember this great movie with James Arness as The Thing? Here it is — in 175 pages! Fascinating!

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Rescued from the sea and brought to a small out-of-the-island, Edward Prendick discovers the terrifying creatures of the island. Real frightening!

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Read if you dare these frightening world of nightmares, where that scratching in the wall, that suffocation of the heart, that scream torn from the lungs take on forms and shapes!

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Stirs the imagination! What starts off as an experiment soon gets out of hand creating gigantic men, insects and monsters in a world which had no place for them!

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To awaken . . . changed! Something has happened to human beings all over the world. Makes you wonder and ask yourself, "What if it really happened today?"

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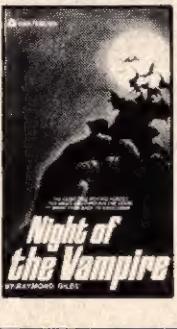
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Seven of Lovecraft's masterpieces of horror! Widely acclaimed as surpassing even the great Poe. Full of ancient evils biding their time to break loose again into your world and others.

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NIGHT of the VAMPIRE



The eerie call echoed across the endless miles and down through the years to bring them back to Sanscoeur! A land where the moon glows green and bats scream in the wind. Scary!

No. 2138 60¢

So you're going to be a **PIG** about it? You say you want **LORE** for your money? Here's a sweet young **MYTH** who'll try to amuse you while your blood runs cold to the haunting doom of.....

CIRCE

OUT OF THE MISTS OF FOLKLORE AND LEGENDARY COMES THE TERRIBLE WHISPER OF EVIL ENCHANTMENT AND LETHAL LEGENDRY KNOWN AS **CIRCE**. THE OLD TALES ARE WRITTEN OFF AS MANDERINGS OF IMAGINATIVE MINDS, BUT THE LADY OF THE PIGS IS AS REAL AS TODAY! ON HER ISLAND, MEN ARE TURNED TO BOARS AND TUSKERS, AND HER ISLAND CAN BE FOUND-- BUT READ ON, READ ON...

COME TO ME, YOU TRAVELERS OF THE STORM-TOSSED SEAS! HERE ON MY ISLAND THERE IS NO TIME--NOTHING BUT MY BEAUTY TO ENTHRAL YOU AND MY WILL TO MAKE YOU FORGET YOUR CARES AND WOES. 10! 10! COME TO ME... TO... **CIRCE**..



THE VOICE WAS A MERE WHISPER IN THE WIND THAT MOANED ABOUT THE CRUISE SHIP ON WHICH PAUL MADDEN WAS VOYAGING THROUGH THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA...

STRANGE! IT'S AS IF THE WIND WERE--
TALKING TO ME! INVITING ME TO COME
WITH IT...TO FAR PLACES...BUT THAT'S
RIDICULOUS!

I MUST'VE
HAD TOO MUCH
BUBBLEY AT
THE CAPTAIN'S
TABLE
TONIGHT!

ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT THE WIND GREW STRONGER...**STRONGER!**
UNTIL TOWARD MORNING, DRIVEN BY TREMENDOUS GALES--THE
CRUISE SHIP STRUCK A STONE WALL--WHERE NO WALL COULD
POSSIBLY EXIST!...

KRAASH



AND INTO THOSE AWESOMELY HEAVING WATERS, PAUL MADDEN WAS
FLUNG LIKE A STRAW MAN...

NOBODY SAW ME GO
OVERBOARD! I'LL...
DROWN...

WHAM!



THE CURRENTS DRAGGED THE DESPERATELY
STRUGGLING MAN DOWNWARD--YET THE
SEA COULD NOT QUITE SWALLOW HIM...

WITH MORNING, AS HIS SALT-
CAKED EYES OPENED...



NO WAY TO
FIGHT THESE
BIG WAVES--
EVEN IF I
AM A GOOD
SWIMMER.

THE SEA IS SAFER
THAN THE LAND--ON
THIS ISLAND!

WHY, YOU'RE
DRAGGING ME
BACK INTO THE
SEA! LET GO...

PLEASE! I WILL
FLEE WITH YOU.
THIS IS A BAD
PLACE.

SAY, WHAT
ARE YOU---
SOME KIND
OF NUT?
HERE I AM
LUCKY TO BE
ALIVE--AND
YOU WANT
ME TO
GO BACK IN
THAT SEA
AGAIN!

A VOICE LIKE THE SONG OF THE BREEZE IN POPLAR
TREES CALLS SOFTLY...

HELEN! BRING THE
YOUNG MAN TO ME.

IT'S TOO LATE
NOW...TOO
LATE!

MAN--WHAT
A DISH!



GIRGE THE ENCHANTRESS BECKONS...AND ALL MEN
MUST OBEY!...

I DIDN'T KNOW THEY
MADE GIRLS LIKE
YOU ANY MORE!
I'M COMING,
HONEY--JUST
AS FAST AS
I CAN.



THE BEAUTY OF CIRCE IS LIKE A SAVAGE DRUMBEAT,
THRILLING AND EXCITING! IT THRALLS, IT MES-
MERIZES....

WELCOME,
YOUNG MAN--
WELCOME!



HER IVORY ARMS
GO ABOUT HIS
NECK. HER LIPS,
AS THEY KISS,
BURN WITH AN
ENCHANTING
FLAME....



OH, I'M GOING TO
LIKE IT HERE!

YOU SHALL REST, FIRST. AND
THEN YOU SHALL BATHE AND
AFTER THAT--THE FEASTING
AND THE LOVING.



BEMUSED--YET NOT QUESTIONING HIS FATE--PAUL RESTS
THEN...

YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS,
HELEN. BUT I DON'T HOLD
IT AGAINST YOU. ANY GIRL
WOULD BE JEALOUS OF--
HER!

I
WARNED
YOU!



WINE! SONG! AND OF COURSE--WOMEN! WOMEN SUCH AS PAUL MADDEN HAD NEVER SEEN. AND SMILING DOWN FROM HER EBONY AND IVORY THRONE, THE LOVELIEST OF THEM ALL.....

AND HELEN WANTED TO SCARE ME OFF FROM A LIFE LIKE THIS!

CIRCE!

AFTER THE FEASTING--
THE LOVING, MY HANDSOME DARLING! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE ANYONE LIKE YOU VISITED MY ISLAND!

IN THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT, MUCH LATER....

QUAFF DEEP OF THIS ELIXIR OF THE GODS!

IN THE ARMS OF CIRCE A MAN FORGETS HIS NAME, WHAT HE WAS AND WHAT HE EVER HOPES TO BE. ALL HE KNOWS IS PLEASURE.....

BUT IN THE MORNING...

WHERE IS SHE? AND--WHAT AM I DOING ON THE FLOOR? I FEEL SO STRANGE. HAVE I SHRUNK? OR.....

A BOAR CANNOT SCREAM. OR PAUL MADDEN MIGHT HAVE SCREAMED HIS LUNGS OUT ON SEEING WHAT HE IS AND WHAT HE HAS BECOME!...

OUT! OUT! YOU'RE JUST ONE OF HER SWINE NOW!

SCAT!

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
I--I'M DRUNK AND DELIRIOUS--
--SOMEWHERE....

PALSID WITH FEAR AND SHOCK, PAUL MADDEN RAN THROUGH THE ISLAND WOODS. DAZED AND INCREDOULOUS, HE STILL CANNOT ACCEPT HIS FANTASTIC FATE...

I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT! IF THIS IS REALITY, THEN THAT WOMAN MUST BE....



HALF OUT OF HIS MIND, ALMOST BELIEVING THAT HE IS MAD, THE BOAR THAT WAS PAUL MADDEN FLED THROUGH THE DENSE WOODS OF THIS EERIE ISLAND.

I REMEMBER IN THE ODYSSEY THAT TELLS OF CIRCE'S ISLAND--ULYSSES ATE A PLANT CALLED 'MOLY' AND WAS SAVED FROM HER ENCHANTMENTS....

A SOFT VOICE CALLED...

PAUL MADDEN--

COME TO ME.
PAULLLLL....PAULLL...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT MOLY LOOKS LIKE AND--WHAT'S THAT?

COME, PAUL, FEED ON THIS HERB THAT WILL GIVE YOU BACK YOUR HUMANITY!

HELEN! I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO HER. NOW SHE'S SAVING ME---IN SPITE OF MYSELF!



SLOWLY HIS BODY CHANGED...



HAND IN HAND PAUL AND HELEN FLED INTO THE SEA...



WITH MORNING, TWO BODIES LIE ON THE SANDY SHELF OF ONE OF THE BALEARIC ISLANDS.



I'VE SEEN PICTURES OF SOMETHING LIKE THAT IN THE MUSEUM IN BARCELONA. IT'S CALLED A CHITON.



YES. THAT MUST BE THE ANSWER.

HOPE YOU ENJOYED THAT LITTLE BITTY--- THINK I'LL TRY ON ONE OF THOSE CHITONS. WANNA HELP ME, GUYS?

SING A SONG OF SIX PENCE, SING OF THINGS THAT DIE,
SING OF TWENTY RAVENS BAKED IN A PIE,
SING OF A DARLING CHILD WHO WITH HER LAST BREATH,
SANG A SONG OF MARIE AND...

THE BROTHERS DEATH



ONCE ENTERED, MARIE WAFTED THE MUSTY ODORS FROM HER NOSTRILS, SEARCHING THE VAULTS OF DECAYING VOLUMES FOR HER BOOK. IT WAS NOT ON THE SHELVES.



CHRISTIANA'S LIPS WERE ICE AS THEY DREW THE WARM BREATH OF LIFE FROM MARIE'S LUNGS. FIRST, A LOSS OF SENSES, NEVER A LOSS OF AWARENESS, AND THEN HER LIMBS AND HEAD BEGAN TO TINGLE. OLD SENSES WERE BEING REPLACED BY FAR SUPERIOR DEVICES...



WE ARE ON THE PLAINS OF DEATH. THERE IS THE CASTLE OF GURN! A HIDEOUS BEING, WHO HOLDS THE LIFE OF THE UNIVERSE IN HIS HAND. THE OTHER, A CASTLE OF CLOVE, THERE IS WHERE WE ARE BOUND.

AT THE ENTRANCE TO CLOVE'S CASTLE.

BLOODY CASKETS
TOMBS OF DECAY, MINDLESS GARGOYLES, TURN AWAY.



WITHIN
CLOVE'S
PALACE.

BEHOLD, THE *BROTHER'S DEATH*! THE FIRST IS MONTY—
NATURAL DEATH, THE SECOND IS DUGAN, MY HUSBAND AND
THE LORD OF DEATH BY DISEASE AND STARVATION, IN BLACK,
LEE, SUDDEN DEATH! SEATED ON THE THRONE IS *CLOVE*,
MINISTER OF DEATH.

COME
HERE,
MARIE.



PRECIOUS MARIE— HOW LONG YOU'VE
WORSHIPPED ME WHEN I HAD NO REAL
SUBSTANCE FOR YOU. NOW YOU SHALL KNOW
ME AND MY KINGDOM. CHRISTIANA, TAKE HER
TO HER WARDROBE AND DRESS HER
PROPERLY.

AS CLOVE
PREPARES
THE STALLIONS
FOR THEIR
JOURNEY
ACROSS THE
*PLAINS OF
DEATH*, HE
HEARS MARIE
APPROACH
AND TURNS
TO FIND
THE GIRL
TRANSFORMED
INTO
GODDESS.

ARE YOU PLEASED
WITH MY GARMENT,
SIRE? CHRISTIANA
SAID THAT YOU
WOULD BE.

CHRISTIANA IS VERY
WISE. MOUNT THE
WHITE STEED AND TAKE
CARE NOT TO RIDE TOO
CLOSE TO THE STREAM
OF SOULS. THE
HORSES, BEING GHOSTS
THEMSELVES, ARE
ATTRACTED TO IT.



AS EACH CIVILIZATION DIES, WE TRY TO SAVE A
FRAGMENT OF IT HERE. THERE ARE THOUSANDS
OF THESE GARDENS ACROSS THE PLAINS.
GREECE, EGYPT, BABYLON, CRETE.

SIRE, WHY HAVE
YOU SENT FOR
ME?



TO BE MY
BRIDE, OF
COURSE.
SHARE THIS
KINGDOM
WITH ME,
AS MY
QUEEN.

OF
COURSE,
MY LORD.



ON THEIR RETURN FROM THE GARDENS OF PARADISE, THEY PASS THE STREAM OF SOULS. MARIE, PITIYING THEIR AGONY, RIDE DANGEROUSLY CLOSE.

MY LORD, IS THERE NO WAY FOR US TO SAVE THOSE POOR SOULS?

THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY TO FEED MINK, THE MONSTROUS PET OF GURN! THERE IS NO HOPE, MARIE, BE CAREFUL!

MARIE!

CLOVE! SAVE ME! I MUST BE YOUR BRIDE!

SLAY, MINK! BROTHER, YOU ARE INSANE! ALL OF THE SOULS WILL BE FREE TO WANDER AIMLESSLY OVER THE PLAINS. YOU WOULD BRING GURN UPON US!

AND GURN MUST NOT BE SLAIN! HE HOLDS THE GLOBE OF LIFE IN HIS HAND. IF THE GLOBE LEFT HIS PALM, THE UNIVERSE WOULD SHATTER. ONE GIRL IS NOT WORTH THIS!

I HAVE VISITED TOO MANY BATTLE-FIELDS AND SEEN TOO MANY ACCIDENTS AND FIRES AND DROWNINGS AND MURDERS. A BAD SYSTEM IS NOT WORTH CONTINUING. WE CAN DO NO WORSE BY CHALLENGING IT. CLOVE, I AM WITH YOU.

WE ARE FOOLS, BUT WE ARE BROTHERS. WE ARE ALL WITH YOU!

THE BROTHERS, ARMED WITH SWORDS AND LANCES, RIDE HORSES WHICH MATCH THE COLOR OF THEIR UNIFORMS.



THERE
IT IS!

MINK-DIGESTER OF SOULS. THE WHOLE PURPOSE
OF LIFE IS TO PRODUCING PLUMP SOUL TO BE FED
TO THIS PROTOPLASMIC BLOB.

LOWER YOUR LANCES! CHARGE
BEFORE HE BECOMES AWARE
OF US.

KA-VAROOM!

GATHER THE HORSES,
BROTHERS, GURN'S
ARMIES WILL BE
UPON US SOON.

THE PLAINS
OF DEATH
ARE STILL
AS THE ARMY
OF DEMONS
AWAIT THEIR
COMMANDER-
IN- CHIEF -
GURN.



THE RANKS ARE
PARTING! IT'S
GURN!

COME FORWARD,
MINISTER, AND ANSWER
MY CHARGE. YOU HAVE
MURDERED MY
PET. GUILTY OR
NOT?

I AM GUILTY, BUT
I DEMAND THE
RIGHT TO DEFEND
MYSELF IN BATTLE
AGAINST YOU

IMPOSSIBLE! I
CANNOT CHANCE
THAT THE GLOBE
OF LIFE SHOULD
LEAVE MY PALM



YOU HAVE BEEN RELIEVED
OF YOUR BURDEN AND
IT HAS NEVER LEFT YOUR
PALM. DRAW YOUR SWORD
AND LET US DO BATTLE!



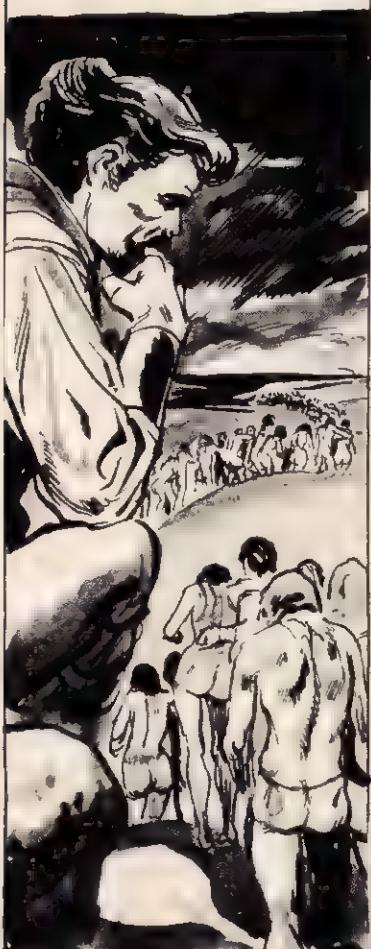
IN A MOMENT IT BEGAN AND WAS OVER.



LOOK! THE DEMONS
SCATTER AND FLEE! THE
SOULS ARE BEGINNING TO
SETTLE TO THE GROUND.
COME BROTHERS, WE
MUST DIRECT THESE
SPIRITS TO THE ISLANDS
OF PARADISE. THERE
THEY CAN CREATE A
TRUE PARADISE.



FOR WEEKS CLOVE
WATCHED THE SOULS
FILE PAST HIM, SCAN-
NING THEIR FACES FOR
THE LOST MAIDEN HE
HAD PROMISED TO
MAKE HIS QUEEN.



THE LIVING NEED ONLY SUFFER THEIR
MATES UNTIL: "... DEATH DO US PART."
WE UNFORTUNATE DEAD HAVE NO
SUCH ESCAPE CLAUSE. SPEAKING
OF "CLAWS" YOU'VE GOT
TO HAND IT TO CLOVE,
HE'S A REAL
CUT UP WITH
A SWORD.



The END

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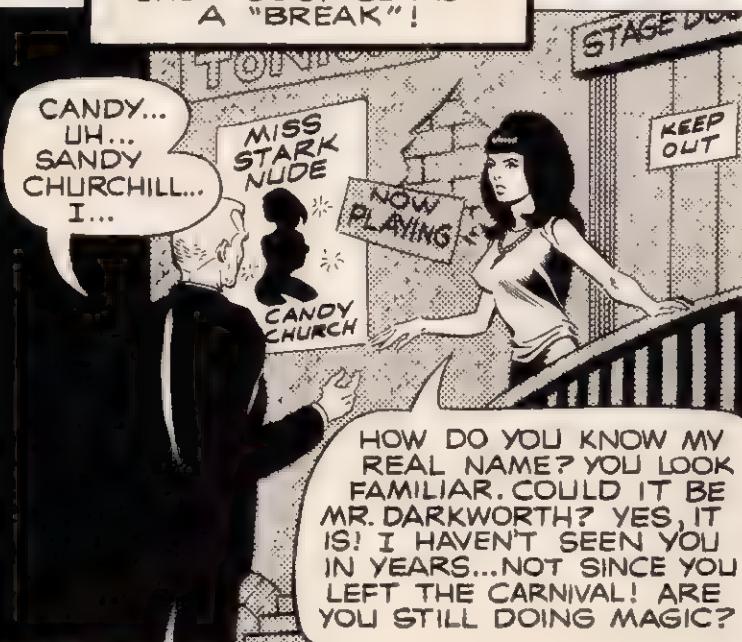
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WITCHES? WIZARDS? POOH-BAH! THEY'RE AS WORTHLESS AS SNAKE'S TOES WITHOUT THEIR POTIONS AND FAMILIAR SPIRITS! 'TIS TIME WE PAY TRIBUTE TO THE TRUE ARTISTS OF MAGIC - THE **STAGE MAGICIAN**! THESE MASTERS OF MANIPULATION HAVE ASTOUNDED MORTALS FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, WORKING WITH LITTLE MORE THAN THEIR WITS AND A BEAUTIFUL GIRL TO DISTRACT THE EYE! **HOUDIN, HOUDINI, THURSTON...** ALL GREAT, BUT THE GREATEST OF THEM ALL WAS...

DARKWORTH!



WE BEGIN OUR DRAMA AT THE BOTTOM, IN A DINGY THEATRE WHICH PANDERS TO THE DREGS OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT... BUT TO SANDY CHURCHILL, BILLED ON THE MARQUE AS CANDY CHURCH, IT'S JUST ANOTHER BOTTOM. SANDY IS FROM THE LOWER DEPTHS OF SOCIETY, AND DESPITE HER GREAT BEAUTY SHE HAS STAYED THERE. TONIGHT, SEATED IN THE AUDIENCE, IS AN INSIGNIFICANT MAN FROM HER PAST, BRINGING TO HER, WHAT IS KNOWN IN SHOW BUSINESS AS A "BREAK"!



MY UNCLE DIED--PASSED AWAY AND HE... A FINE, FINE MAGICIAN...HE LEFT ME HIS THEATRE. I WAS WONDERING IF... WELL, I KNOW... THAT IS... UH... IF YOU WOULD CONSIDER LEAVING YOUR PRESENT EMPLOYMENT AND...

YOU MEAN A MAGICIAN'S ASSISTANT? ME? SAWED IN HALF, FLOATING THRU THE AIR, VANISHING, LIKE THAT? LIKE WOW! IT SOUNDS EXCITING! CAN WE SEE THE THEATRE NOW?



SPIRITS LINGER IN THE DUST PHANTOMS WHICH WHIRL ABOUT THE WONDEROUS DEVICES. MANY OF THE ILLUSIONS CLAIM ANCESTRY FROM THE DEMON SATURATED PAST BEFORE THE KNIGHTS OF SCIENCE HAD SLAIN THE MONSTERS OF SUPERSTITION. AND YET, THESE REMAIN READY TO ASTOUND AN ENLIGHTENED AGE...

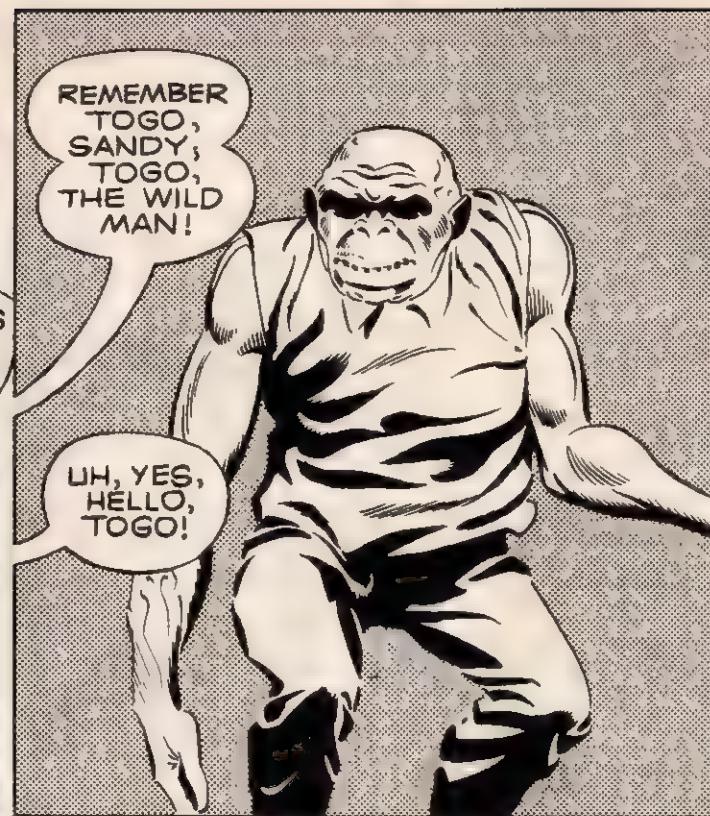
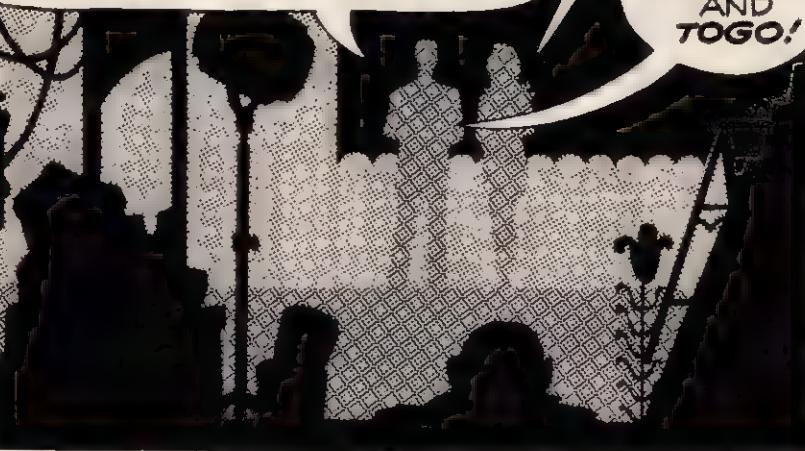
THEY, UH, ARE A BIT ON THE HOKEY SIDE, BUT WITH SOME PAINT AND OIL... YOU AREN'T DISAPPOINTED, ARE YOU? IN A MONTH WE SHOULD... MAYBE TWO MONTHS AND WE'LL OPEN!

JUST THE TWO OF US?

NO, THERE'S YOU, ME, AND TOGO!

REMEMBER TOGO, SANDY, TOGO, THE WILD MAN!

UH, YES, HELLO, TOGO!

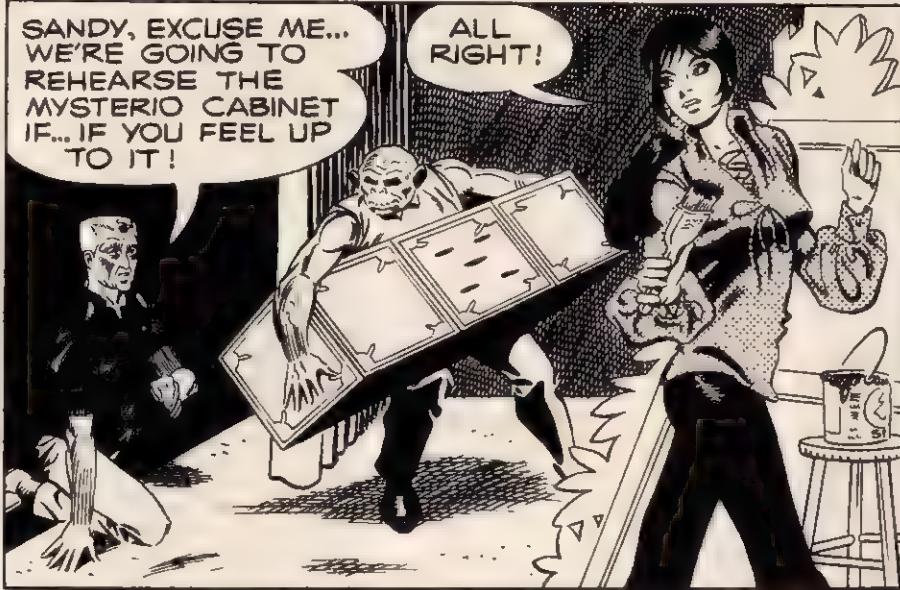


I OWE MY MUTE FRIEND A GREAT DEAL! IT WAS HIS MUSCLES THAT PUT THIS DELAPIDATED THEATER TOGETHER! NOW, SANDY... WILL YOU... JOIN US?

OF COURSE I'LL JOIN YOU! THIS HAS TO BE BETTER THAN WHAT I'VE KNOWN!



FOR WEEKS THE TRIO WORKS TO PUT THEIR LITTLE THEATER TOGETHER. THEY REHEARSE THEIR ROUTINES AS SOON AS A PIECE OF EQUIPMENT IS COMPLETED...



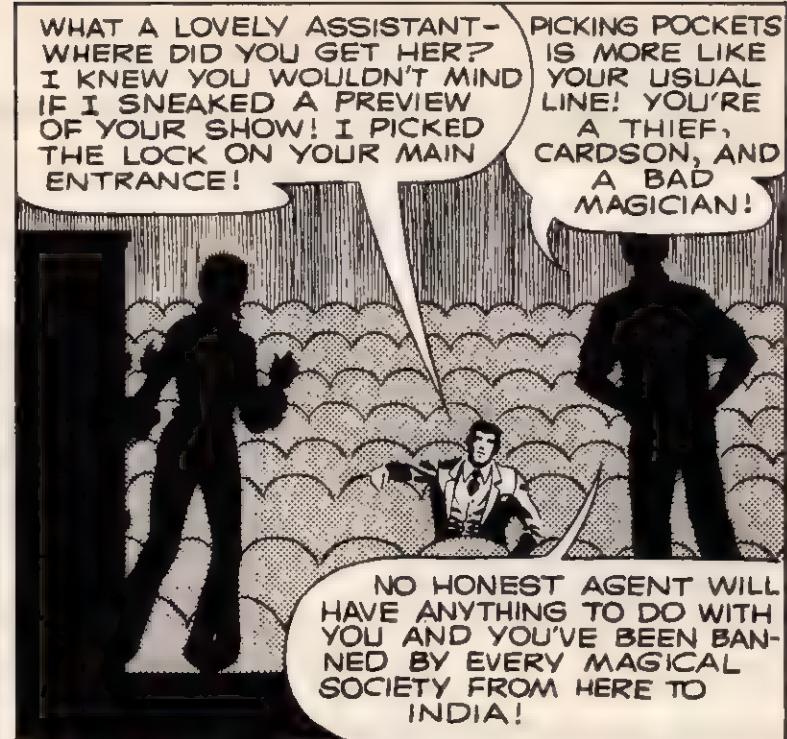
BE CAREFUL WITH THOSE SECTIONS MY HERCULEAN FRIEND, FOR EACH PARCEL CONTAINS A PRECIOUS SEGMENT OF A LOVELY LADY!



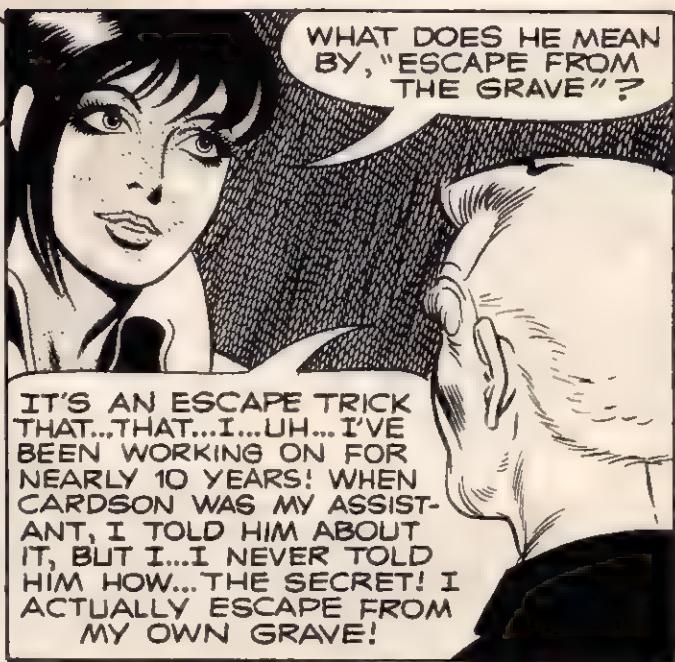
AFTER WE HAVE PERFORATED THIS DAMSEL'S ASTERIAL FORM WE WILL OPEN THIS LAST DOOR TO GAZE UPON HER POOR, MUTILATED MID-SECTION!



AS THE ILLUSION IS COMPLETED, DARKWORTH IS STARTLED BY A DISTURBANCE FROM WHAT HE HAD BELIEVED TO BE AN AUDIENCE OF EMPTY CHAIRS...



SURELY LOVELY LADY, YOU DO NOT BELIEVE THESE OUTRAGIOUS ACCUSATIONS! MY COLLEGE IS JEALOUS BECAUSE I AM ONE OF THE GREATEST ESCAPE ARTISTS OF ALL TIME! SOMEDAY I MAY EVEN BE ABLE TO ESCAPE FROM THE GRAVE!



THE MURMURINGS OF THE OPENING NIGHT AUDIENCE MERGED TOGETHER INTO A LOW DRONE AS IF A HUNGRY BEAST WAS WAITING FOR THE PERFORMERS JUST BEYOND THE LIGHTS, AND THE BEAST WAS BECOMING RESTLESS...



AS THE SHOW CONTINUES FURTHER INTO THE HOUR, THE AUDIENCE IS DAZZLED BY ILLUSIONS MORE ASTONISHING THAN THE ONE PREVIOUSLY DEMONSTRATED...



THERE IS, HOWEVER, AN EMPTINESS
IN THE SHY MAGICIAN WHICH FAME
MASKS BUT DOES NOT FULFILL...

YES, I AM A SUCCESS, BUT
I AM NOT UNIQUE! I NEED
A TRICK... A TRICK THAT WILL
BE MY OWN AND NO ONE
ELSE'S...

ESCAPE FROM THE GRAVE!

IS THIS HOW YOU PLAN
TO ESCAPE FROM
YOUR GRAVE? IT'S SO
SIMPLE! THIS IS ALL
THERE IS TO IT?

THE OBVIOUS
ANSWER IS OFTEN
THE BEST! IF A
TRICK IS TOO
COMPLEX, THERE'S
TOO MANY PLACES
FOR SOMETHING TO
GO WRONG! BUT I
DIDN'T ASK YOU HERE
TO SPEAK OF MAGIC!

IT SPEAKS FOR MY...
HEART! I'M NOT... WILL
YOU ACCEPT IT...
AND ME?

IT'S BEAUTIFUL, BUT
YOU MUST GIVE ME
TIME TO THINK IT
OVER!

IT'S TIME I WAS GOING! I'LL KEEP THE
RING FOR NOW! IF I RETURN IT TO YOU
WITHIN A WEEK, THEN THAT WILL BE
MY ANSWER!

I UNDERSTAND!
GOOD-BYE
AND TAKE
CARE!

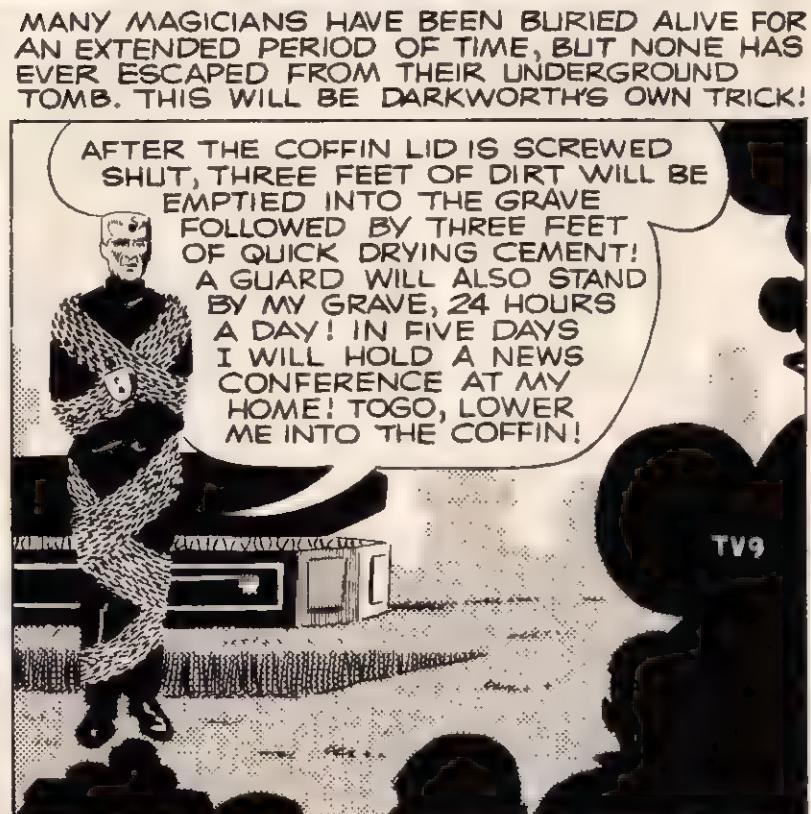
DESPITE THE LATENESS OF THE HOUR, SANDY DOESN'T
GO TO HER HOME... INSTEAD SHE GOES TO AN ALL
NIGHT CAFE FOR A CLANDESTINE RENDEZVOUS...

I DIDN'T BRING ANY MONEY
WITH ME BECAUSE I HADN'T
EXPECTED YOU TO LEARN
THE SECRET OF THE ESCAPE
SO SOON! TELL ME THE
SECRET AND I'LL PAY YOU
TOMORROW EVENING!

I'M NO FOOL CARDSON!
YOU'LL LEARN THE SEC-
RET WHEN YOU BRING
THE MONEY! I'M GOING
TO SKIP REHEARSALS
'CAUSE I'VE GOT TO
HOCK A DIAMOND
RING! I'LL SEE YOU
HERE AT NOON!

O SANDY, WHY DID YOU
BETRAY ME? I MUST
PROTECT MY SECRET
AND THERE'S ONLY ONE
WAY THAT I CAN DO THAT!





BENEATH THE LAYER OF DIRT AND CEMENT, DARKWORTH HAS ESCAPED FROM THE CHAINS! THAT WAS EASY! ANY ESCAPE ARTIST CAN DO IT WITH MUSCLE CONTROL AND A LOCK PICK SECRETED IN THE MOUTH...



HEY, TOGO, LOOK HERE! THEY FOUND THE MURDER WEAPON IN THE SANDY CHURCH CASE AND THERE WERE FINGER-PRINTS ON THE HANDLE!



THOSE ON THE SURFACE HAVE TRADED SPECULATIONS ON HOW DARKWORTH WILL DIG HIS WAY UP TO THE SURFACE, NOT REALIZING THAT INSTEAD THE PSEUDO-SORCERER IS DIGGING DOWN...



...DOWN... TO A TUNNEL HE HAD DUG MANY YEARS AGO WHEN HE HAD BEEN EMPLOYED AS A GRAVE DIGGER. NEVER BEFORE HAD AN ESCAPE SUCH EXTENSIVE PLANNING!



DARKWORTH CRAWLS THRU THE TUNNEL... LEADING TO A SECOND GRAVE, AN OPEN GRAVE WHICH DARKWORTH HAD PURCHASED UNDER ANOTHER NAME. TOGO AND SANDY KNEW OF THE EXISTANCE OF THE SECOND PLOT BUT NOT THE REASON FOR IT...



IN A FEW MINUTES, DARKWORTH WILL DIG HIS WAY TO FREEDOM AND FAME! THE POLICE HAVE THEIR MURDERER AND SO THEY WON'T BE WAITING FOR HIS EMERGENCE, BUT SOMEONE ELSE IS WAITING!



DUE TO A BIZZARE ERROR, TOGO HAS GRANTED DARKWORTH'S *LAST* WISH!



IT IS TERRIBLE WHEN UNEXPECTED GUESTS *DROP IN...* EVEN IF YOU REALLY *DIG* THE GIRL!





YOU STAND IN THE RECESSED DOORWAY OF THE LITTLE STORE, STARING DOWN THE MAIN STREET OF THIS ODD TOWN. EVERYTHING SEEMS SO DIFFERENT FROM PLEASANT HILLS, WHERE YOU USED LIVE. BUT YOUR PARENTS MOVED AWAY FROM THERE, AND NOW YOU FIND YOURSELF THAT...

NEW GIRL in TOWN!



WHAT A WEIRDO PLACE!
IT GIVES ME
THE CREEPS!



YOU BEGIN YOUR
STROLL HOPING
TO SEE A
FRIENDLY FACE...



EEECH! ALL
THESE STORES
ALONG HERE ARE
FILTHY! GRIMEY!
AS THOUGH NOBODY
EVER CLEANS
THEM OR GIVES
A DARN!



FOR A MOMENT, YOUR HEART SKIPS A BEAT!
A COUPLE OF BOYS ARE COMING TOWARD YOU
AND YOU DO WANT TO MAKE FRIENDS...



HEY, HEY! THE TOWN
SHOWS SIGNS OF LIFE.
I'LL BET THOSE
CATS KNOW WHERE
THE ACTION
IS!

DAN
ADKINS

BUT WHEN THE BOYS ARE ALMOST IN FRONT OF YOU...



YOU HURRY ON...



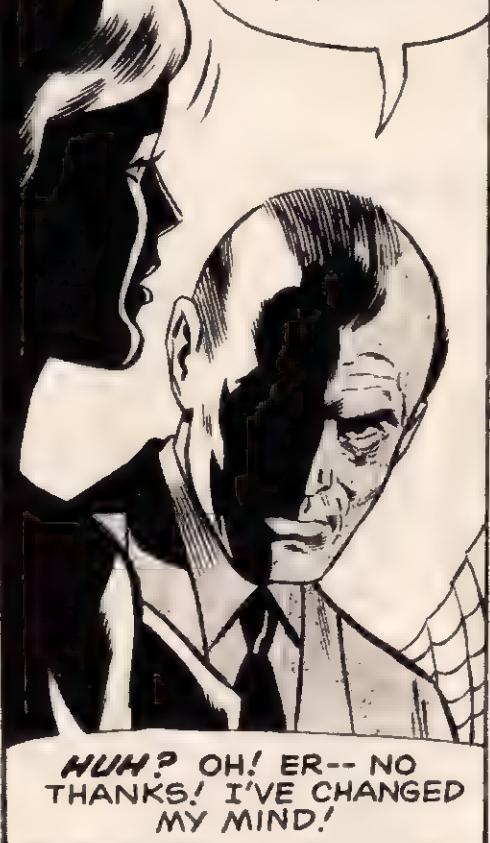
YOUR EYES GROW BIG AS SAUCERS AS YOU SEE...

OHHH, NO! EVERYTHING IS SO-- OLD! WHY, IT'S ALMOST AS IF NO ONE CARES WHAT ANYBODY ELSE THINKS!



A RASPY VOICE CALLS OUT...

HOLD ON THERE, HONEYCHILD. I'LL BE HAPPY TO SERVE YOU, CHOCOLY SODA, YOU SAID?



YOU SEE HIM PULL THE LEVER-- YOU SEE DUST POUR OUT INSTEAD OF CHOCOLATE SYRUP!...



YOUR HEELS DRUM A PROTESTING TATTOO AS YOU RACE ALONG THE SIDEWALK!

I NEVER SAW -- SUCH A CREEPY PLACE! YEECH! IF MOM AND DAD THINK I'M GOING TO STAY HERE, THEY'RE LAME!



YOU IGNORE ALL INVITING CALLS. YOU WANT TO GET HOME INSIDE YOUR NEW HOUSE, WHERE EVERYTHING IS NICE AND NORMAL...



SUDDENLY YOU STOP-- BECAUSE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE WAY...

WH-- WHERE AM I? I D--DON'T REMEMBER THIS ROAD AT ALL!

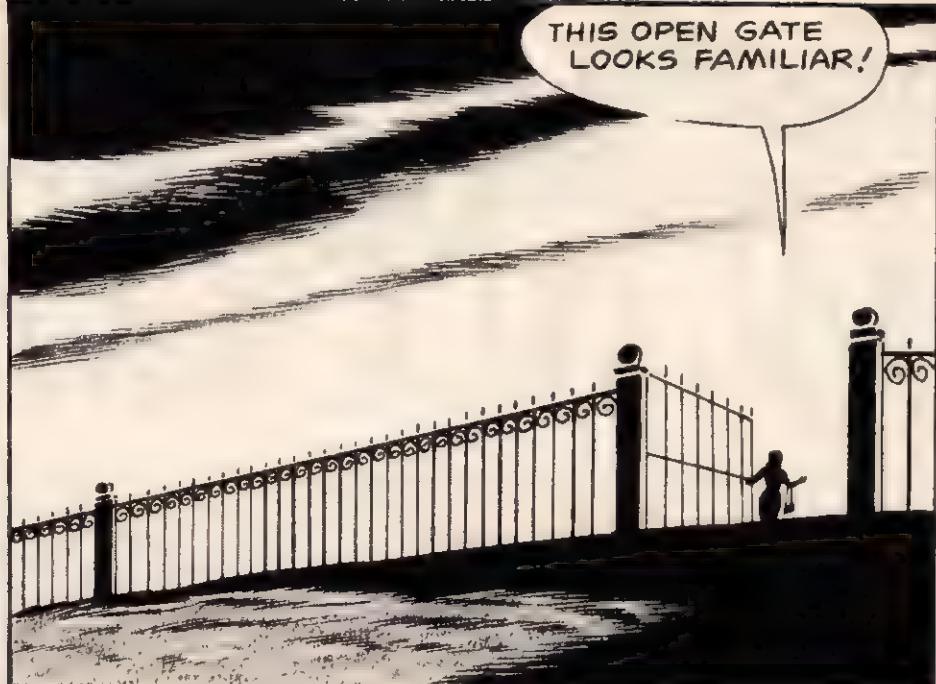


CONFUSED, YOU STUMBLE ABOUT UNTIL...

I KNOW THIS IRON FENCE. I -- I
THINK IT RUNS AROUND OUR
PROPERTY...

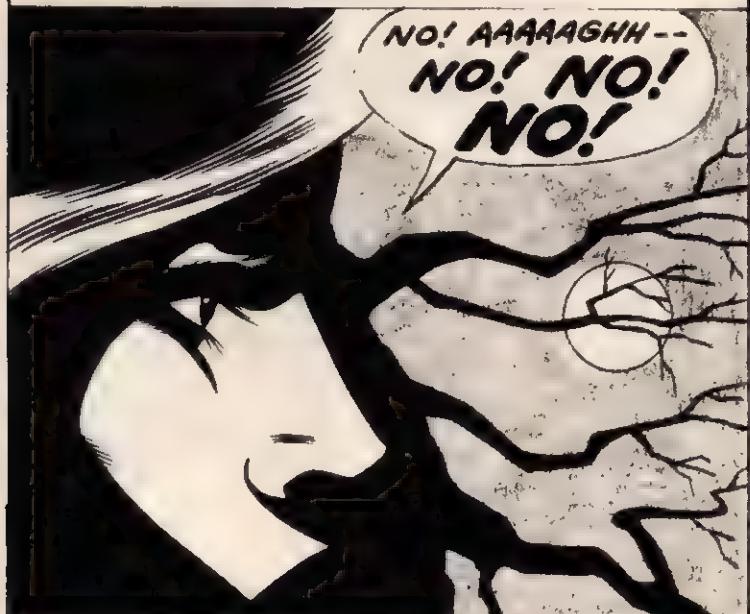


THIS OPEN GATE LOOKS FAMILIAR!



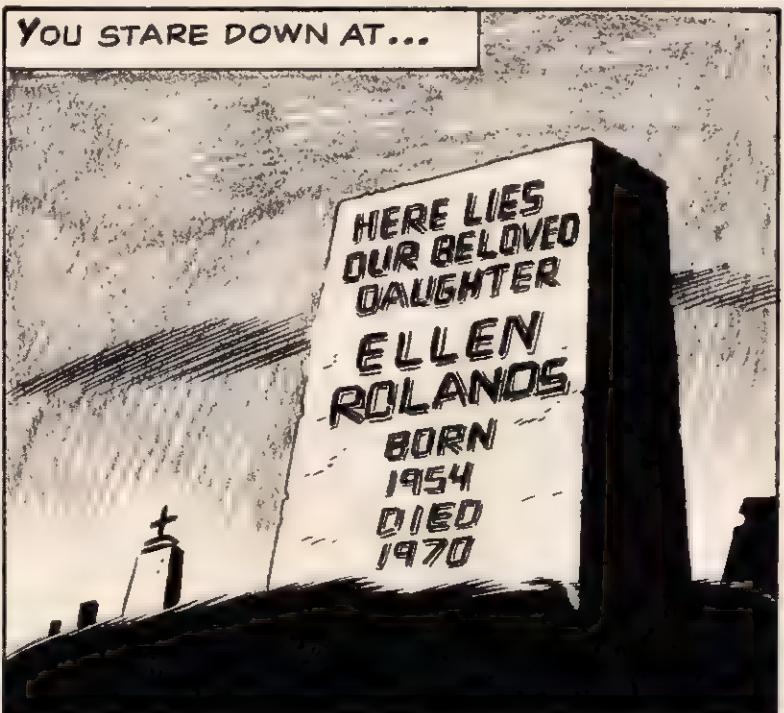
SUDDENLY YOU SLIDE TO A HALT, AND
YOUR JAW DROPS IN UTTER
HORROR...

NO! AAAAGHH--
NO! NO!
NO!



YOU STARE DOWN AT...

HERE LIES
OUR BELOVED
DAUGHTER
ELLEN
ROLANDS
BORN
1954
DIED
1970



YOUR HANDS LIFT AND NOW YOU FEEL
YOUR FACE

AAAAAGGGHHH!



YES! YOU THINK ABOUT THE ACCIDENT AT
LAST, AND HOW YOU WENT THROUGH THE
WINDSHIELD OF THE CAR...



BETTER EXCHANGE YOUR LOVE BEADS FOR A GARLIC WREATH, HORROR HIPPIES, AS I WRITHINGLY RELATE THIS TALE OF A LOVELY LADY SINGLED OUT TO BE THE...

VICTIM of the VAMPYRE!

THIS DESOLATE VALLEY IN THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS WEARS A HEAVY MANTLE OF HORROR AND GRIEF. 1841 SAW A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY STRIKE THE LOCAL VILLAGE, REACHING EVEN INTO THE MASSIVE BUKOV CASTLE. PEASANTS AND NOBLES ALIKE WERE DECIMATED BY SOMETHING SO DREADFUL FEW DARED EVEN SPEAK ITS NAME. THE YOUNGEST AND STRONGEST WERE FIRST TO PERISH... ONLY A HANDFUL OF THE OLDEST BUKOV'S MANAGED TO FLEE TO ENGLAND. IN THE NEXT THIRTY YEARS, ONLY ONE CHILD WAS BORN. YOUNG KURT BUKOV WAS LEFT TO CARRY ON THE FAMILY NAME. THOUGH HEIR TO A GREAT FORTUNE, WHO COULD HAVE LIVED A KING'S LIFE IN LONDON, KURT FULFILLED HIS DREAMS BY MARRYING THE FAIR LISA AND JOURNEYING TO THE LAND HE'D NEVER SEEN, TO DWELL IN THE CASTLE THAT BORE HIS NAME. BUT THE WEEKS OF HAPPINESS WERE SHORT-LIVED....



I CAME AS SOON AS I HEARD OF LISA'S ILLNESS... **AM I TOO LATE?**

RELAX, FATHER KOENIG. IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS! LISA JUST HAD A FAINTING SPELL... SHE'S RESTING NOW...

I HAVE SOME SLIGHT KNOWLEDGE OF MEDICINE... PERHAPS I SHOULD LOOK IN ON HER.

IT'S REALLY NOTHING, FATHER. SHE WAS TIRED THIS MORNING... THE LONG TRIP... GETTING THE CASTLE IN ORDER... LISA WAS FATIGUED AND IT FINALLY OVERCAME HER.



BUT SHE SEEMED SO HEALTHY WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED... HAS THIS EVER HAPPENED BEFORE?

YES, JUST BEFORE WE LEFT ENGLAND... A STRANGE CALLER APPEARED AT OUR TOWNHOUSE...

"...HE SAID HE WAS AN ARTIST, AND UPON HEARING OF LISA'S BEAUTY KNEW HE MUST PAINT HER PORTRAIT..."

I AM ONE WHO THRIVES ON BEAUTY... I ASK NO PAYMENT BUT THE SATISFACTION OF A JOB WELL DONE...

I-I DON'T KNOW. W-WE'RE LEAVING SOON...

"HE PRODUCED SAMPLES OF HIS WORK THAT WERE OF EXTRAORDINARY QUALITY... THE IDEA APPEALED TO ME. BUT I WAS TAKEN ABACK BY THIS FELLOW'S GRUESOME APPEARANCE... STILL, OVER MY BETTER JUDGEMENT, I CALLED LISA IN TO DISCUSS IT..."

"SHE FAINTED AT THE VERY SIGHT OF THAT WRETCH. WHEN HE STILL TRIED TO PLEAD HIS CASE, I HAD THE DOOR BOLTED IN HIS FACE. MY POOR LISA WAS SO UPSET, I DECIDED TO LEAVE THE VERY NEXT DAY..."



IT WAS MY OWN FAULT, EXPOSING HER TO SOMEONE SO FRIGHTENING. THAT PALE, PASTY SKIN... AND THE SCAR... **HE LOOKED LIKE DEATH ITSELF!**

SCAR...? NO! IT COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE... MY SON, WATCH OVER HER! LISA IS BEAUTIFUL... THIS CRUEL LAND DEVOURS BEAUTY!



AIIIEEEEEEEE!!!





MY SON, IN LONDON HE MAY HAVE CALLED
HIMSELF AN ARTIST... HERE, HE IS CALLED BY
THE NAME OF THE DAMNED, **VAMPYRE!**

VAMPYRE?!
BUT, YOU SEEM
TO KNOW HIM...

"MY GREAT JOY AT BECOMING A PRIEST WAS SOON NUMBED WHEN I
FAILED TO SAVE THE SOUL OF ONE WHO MEANT MUCH TO ME... A
GREEDY, EVIL LIFE SOON LED TO A TRAGIC DEATH... BUT THIS TRAGEDY
PROVED ONLY THE FIRST STEP IN A GHASTLY REIGN OF HORROR..."



"IN THIS VERY ROOM YOUR YOUNG AUNT DIED UNDER THE
FANGS OF THE UNDEAD. SHE WAS THE FIRST... THERE WERE
MANY OTHERS, UNTIL NO CORPSE WAS BURIED WITHOUT
FIRST DRIVING A STAKE THROUGH ITS HEART..."



"EVEN A MAN OF PEACE CANNOT STAND HELPLESSLY BY
WHILE A MONSTER DESTROYS LIFE AND SOUL... AT THE HUT
OF A RECENT VICTIM, I SET A TRAP..."



"IT WAS MY HOPE TO DECAPITATE THE FIEND..."



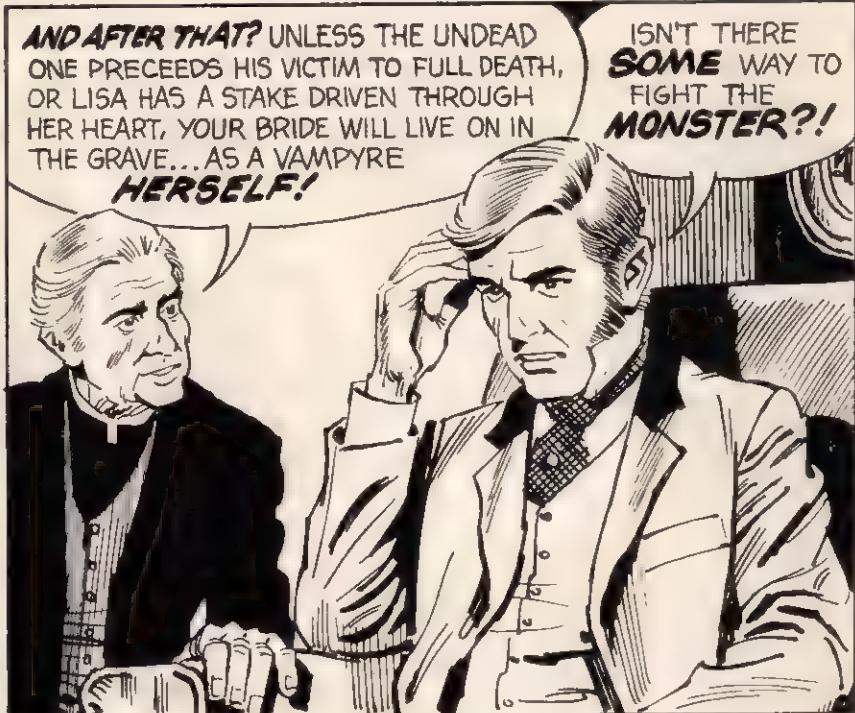
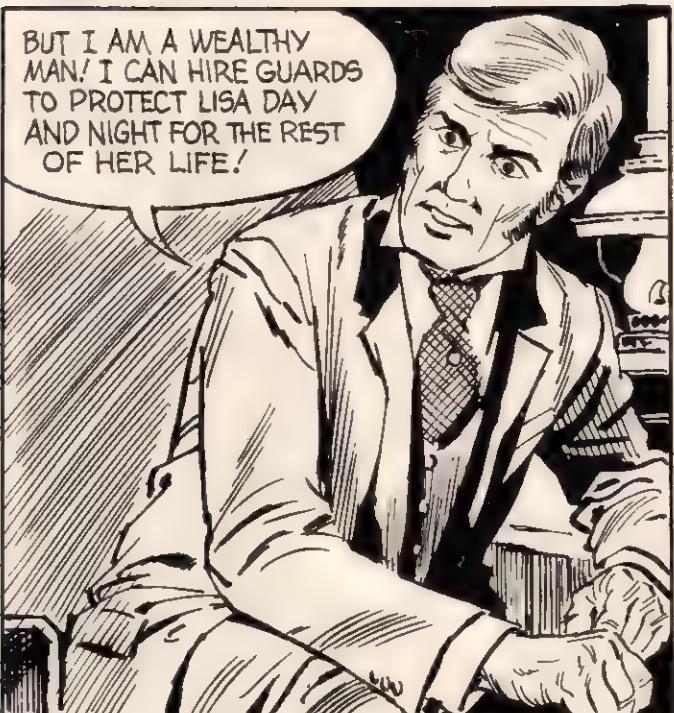
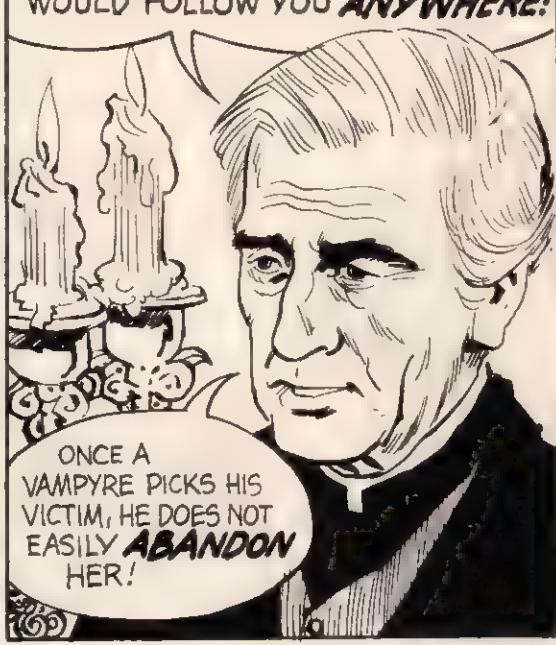
"...INSTEAD THE BLADE FOUND THE SIDE OF THE CREATURE'S HEAD.
YOU HAVE SEEN THE **SCAR...**"



THERE WERE NO MORE ATTACKS... I DARED TO HOPE HE'D DIED IN THE HILLS... I'M SORRY THAT OF ALL WAYS TO LEARN HE'S SURVIVED AND FLED THIS LAND OF HIS BIRTH... IT HAD TO BE LIKE **THIS!**

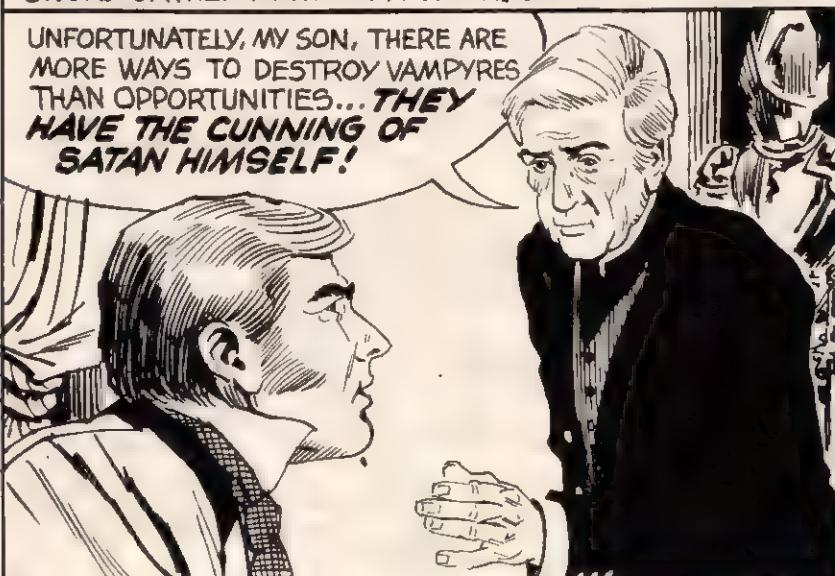
WE WASTE TIME TALKING! **I MUST GET LISA AWAY FROM HERE!**

TO WHERE? IF THE VAMPYRE WOULD RETURN TO THIS BARREN COUNTRY WHERE I NEARLY **DESTROYED** HIM... HE WOULD FOLLOW YOU **ANYWHERE!**

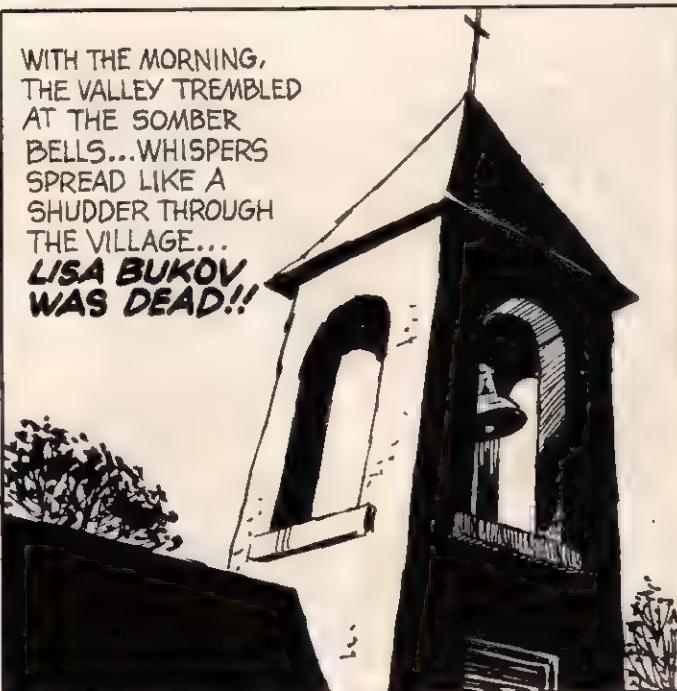


FATHER KOENIG RELATED THE METHODS OF **DESTROYING** THE UNDEAD... DECAPITATION... IMPALING WITH A STAKE, OR A SWORD BATHED IN HOLY WATER AND BLESSED... BURNING...

UNFORTUNATELY, MY SON, THERE ARE MORE WAYS TO DESTROY VAMPYRES THAN OPPORTUNITIES... **THEY HAVE THE CUNNING OF SATAN HIMSELF!**



WITH THE MORNING, THE VALLEY TREMBLED AT THE SOMBER BELLS... WHISPERS SPREAD LIKE A SHUDDER THROUGH THE VILLAGE... **LISA BUKOV WAS DEAD!!**



IN THE BUKOV FAMILY CRYPT, A NEW COFFIN RESTED... AND THE CONTEST FOR LISA'S SOUL WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN...

COME, MY SON, IT'S NEARLY SUNSET, AND WE HAVE A TERRIBLE TASK AHEAD OF US...



DEEP IN A MOUNTAIN CAVE, THOUGH PARALYZED BY DAY-LIGHT, THE MONSTER'S SUPERNATURAL HEARING EASILY DETECTED THE FORLORN PEALING OF THE BELLS... HE SMILED... FEELING THE HOT FLUSH OF **TRIUMPH!**



AND AS DAYLIGHT GAVE WAY BEFORE THE ON-RUSHING DARKNESS, EVIL TOOK FLIGHT...

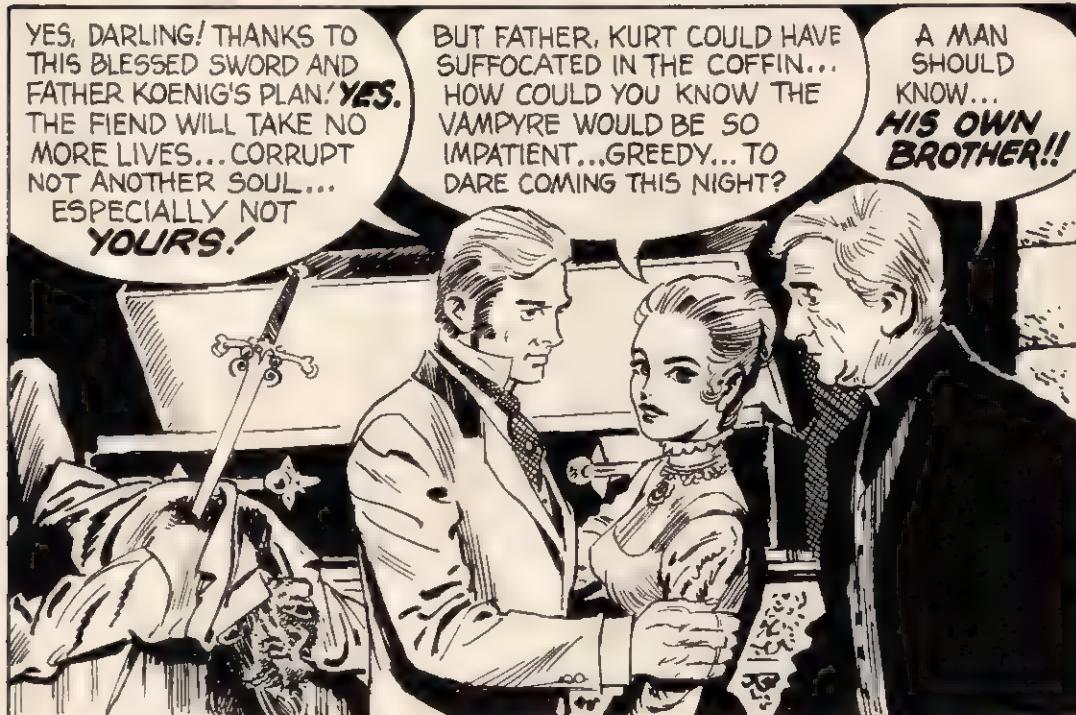


...FILLING THE EVENING AIR WITH THE DRY RUSTLING OF DEAD WINGS.



**ARISE, MY PRINCESS
... YOUR BEAUTY IS
MINE...
FOREVER!!**





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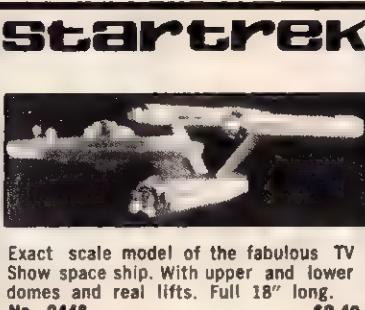
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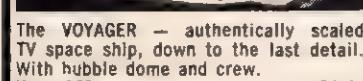
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The FLYING SUB from the exciting TV Show. Complete with clear plastic display stand, removable roof showing control area, pilot and co-pilot.
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Razzle-dazzling RON FISHER of St. Anthony, Iowa, sent us this picture and included a story to go with it.

While strolling too close to a haunted castle, many years ago, a lovely young lady with very yellow hair and an angelic smile was captured by an ogre.

The ogre carried the young lady in his hairy paws all the way down to the very deepest cubby-hole of his catacomb castle's cellar.

The girl screamed loudly as the ogre bound her hands and anklets with rope, and lowered her into a pit of bubbling liquids which gave off foul odors.

The ogre laughed and held his nose with one hand, as he let out an inch of rope at a time, with the other.

The girl had nothing else to do, so she screamed ever more loudly.

"Bragarggh!" said ogre, "That scream is enough to raise the dead!"

A circle of white bobbed to the surface of the reeking

pool, rose, revealed itself to be a skull with burning red coals in its eye-sockets.

A skeleton hand rose from the mire, clutching the rim of the pit.

Another bony hand, holding a sword, clutched the rim of the pit too, and the skeleton we see in the illustration, pulled himself out onto the floor of the dungeon.

"I have come to save you, dearest," said the skeleton to the lovely young lady in distress. A white aura with his former face mystically formed in it glowed in mid-air—the skeleton's spirit.

"Oh, my Sir Lindsay!" shouted the girl with relief, "You have come to rescue me from this foul master of fetid brine!"

"The same, my lady," answered the skeleton, "This ogre killed me last week, but now I come back to save you, my lovely Lady Funsty!"

The skeleton raised his gleaming magic sword and swung it deftly at the ogre—SLISH! SLASH! SNICKER-

SNACK!

And the ogre was beheaded and died shortly thereafter.

The skeleton then cut the girl down, saying unto her, "There now, my Lady Funsty, no one shall harm you, nor attempt to immerse you in foul-smelling vapors and liquids."

"Tis so!" said the damsel, breathing a sigh of relief, "But I am afraid that since you have already been killed by the ogre, we can never marry."

"Tis a pity, milady, agreed the skeleton, a calcium deposit trickling down his cheek, "but it must be so."

The skeleton then carried the damsel back to ground level, where she could once again breathe the pure air of the midevil village of Gothamm.

The skeleton returned to the catacombs to forever fish the foul pool for the lump of muscle that he was sure to call his broken heart.



Frazetta's original VAMPI. See sketches on next page...

THE WHOLE TRUTH

Brian O'Malley, of Jersey City, N.J.—or, rather Brian's sister—says this story is true. Who are we to argue?

THE BAT

by Brian O'Malley

A boy my sister knew was walking through a park one day with two other kids, a boy and a girl. As they were walking, he saw something lying on the ground and he kicked it. As he did, it jumped up from the ground and hit him. Almost immediately, he fell down screaming and foaming at the mouth. He was rushed to the hospital and had to take the painful treatment for rabies. The thing he had kicked was a bat. And the bat was in the final stages of rabies at the time. It wasn't long before the boy was dead.

Not long after, the girl who had been with him was home all by herself. Her parents were out for the evening. She was in the kitchen when she heard a crash. She ran into the living room to see what had happened. There in the window was a huge bat with his head stuck in the broken glass.

Remembering what had happened to her friend, she ran to the telephone. She managed to lift the receiver, but couldn't speak. She could only scream. And scream she did.

The police came almost immediately. But they were too late to save the girl. She had been frightened to death. By a bat who was dead before she ever saw him.



Submitted by KEN CHRISTIE, of New York City.

COUNT 'EM!

Seven (count 'em) spooky sketches of suave Vampi, sent in by our sensational amateur-artist readers.

Who can say that there doesn't lurk on this page the talent of another Frank Frazetta, Ernie Colon, Tom Sutton, Bat Boyette or a Ken Barr? Most of our artists were comic art fans in their youth, too. And still are!



JERRY CONESSA of Brooklyn, New York, sent in the above portrait of our voluptuous vamp. Running clockwise (starting at upper right-hand corner) from it are sketches of our delicious denizen of Draculon by ANTHONY KOWALIK, of Harvey, Illinois, JACK BECKER, of Thomasville, North Carolina, TOBY CAPUTI, of Brooklyn, New York, CHRIS HAUG, of Plymouth, Massachusetts, RICHARD CHERRON, of Templeton, Quebec, and ED SHEA, of Plainville, Connecticut.

We'll be running more sketches of our Number One Gal Vampire in the future.



DRAW ME

Take a good look at the VAMPIRELLA sketches on this page. Think you can do better? Why not give it a try? Or, send us a story (text or pictures). Do it now! Send it to us at: VAMPI'S FLAMES 22 East 42nd St. New York, N.Y. 10017

THIS TALE **STARTS** IN A HOSPITAL AND **ENDS** THERE TOO... BUT THERE'S A LOT OF TERROR-IFIC TRAVELING BETWEEN THE TWO! BUT DON'T EXPECT TO BE HOME SOON, COUSINS, BECAUSE THIS IS STRICTLY A ...

ONE WAY TRIP!

MIKE DAVIS COULD HEAR THE HUSHED VOICES AS THEY SPOKE THROUGH THE VEIL OF DARKNESS THAT SURROUNDED HIS TORMENTED BRAIN....

HOW IS HE,
DOCTOR?

IT'S NOT GOOD... HIS
MIND IS REALLY ON
'CLOUD NINE' FROM THE
OVERDOSE OF DRUGS
HE TOOK! HE MAY BE
SO FAR OUT WE CAN'T
BRING HIM BACK...

I'M GOING TO TRY THIS NEW COM-
POUND... WE'VE HAD SUCCESS WITH
IT BEFORE ON BAD CASES. BUT
THIS GUY IS SO DRUGGED,
NOTHING MAY HELP HIM!



I'VE SECURED THE STRAPS
SO THAT IF HE BECOMES
VIOLENT DURING THE NIGHT,
HE CAN'T HARM HIMSELF...



FROM A MILLION LIGHT YEARS AWAY, DAVIS' BURNING
MIND HEARD THE ORDERLY'S COMMENTS, AND HIS
SOUL SILENTLY SCREAMED FOR HELP....

SOMEONE...
PLEASE...
I WANT OUT
OF THIS...
I WANT
OUT!
SOB...

BUT DAVIS WAS ALONE IN THE SWIRLING
GALAXY THAT WAS HIS DRUG-INDUCED
INNER-SELF, AND HIS PSYCHEDELIC
TORMENT CONTINUED...

HE FELT HIS LIFE-EXISTENCE BEING TWISTED BY THE
COSMIC FORCES THAT WERE EXPLODING IN HIS HEAD, AND
EACH SECOND BROUGHT SOME NEW INSANITY!



THEN SUDDENLY, DAVIS SENSED ANOTHER PRESENCE IN
THIS LIMBO OF HORROR... A PRESENCE CARRIED ON A HUMID
WIND THAT WASHED THROUGH HIS SOUL...

WHO... WHO IS IT?
WHERE ARE YOU...?



THERE WAS SOMETHING NEARBY, MOVING IN THE DARKNESS THAT HIS EYES COULD NOT PENETRATE...

WHERE ARE YOU?
COME OUT....

HE RACED INTO THE CURTAIN OF BLACK GLOOM, BUT THE PRESENCE HAD MOVED... THEN, A SOUND CAME FROM BEHIND HIM...

HUH? WHA...?



DAVIS TURNED AND SAW THE MONSTEROUS SHAPE, WITH ITS CLAWED-ARMS AND PIERCING EYES THAT SEEMED TO CUT INTO HIS ALREADY-BARED SOUL....!

THE THING LUMBERED TOWARDS HIM, ITS REPULSIVE MOUTH PARTING IN A TRIUMPHANT GRIN THAT GAVE SHAPE TO GURGLED, INHUMAN WORDS...

AT LAST I AM FREE... FREE FROM THE RECESSES OF YOUR MIND, WHERE I HAVE LAIN DORMANT SINCE YOUR BIRTH.... I AM THE EVIL THAT IS IN-BORN IN EVERY MAN... YOU HAVE FINALLY GIVEN ME SHAPE... WITH YOUR DRUGS....!

NO...
(GASP)



BUT I SHALL NEVER
TRULY BE FREE....
UNTIL YOU ARE....
DEAD....

K-KEEP AWAY...
KEEP AWAY...!

INSTINCTIVELY, DAVIS BEGAN TO RUN, FLEEING
THE THING OF EVIL THAT HAD BEEN FREED
FROM HIS MIND!

THIS CAN'T BE
HAPPENING! !
IT CAN'T... !

FASTER AND FASTER HE PLUNGED THROUGH THE
SHIFTING UNIVERSE OF HIS INNER-SELF, SEEKING
A WAY OUT! FINALLY, AN ETERNITY LATER ...

THE PURSUING MONSTER SAW DAVIS COLLAPSE,
AND KNEW IT HAD WON ...

I CAN'T GO ON...
GASP... THERE'S NO
ESCAPE... !

SOON YOU WILL FIND YOUR WAY OUT.... IN
ETERNAL REST... AND I WILL GAIN MY FREEDOM
FROM YOU ...

RESIGNED TO HIS FATE, MIKE DAVIS LAY ON THE COLD, ALIEN SOIL OF HIS DRUGGED MIND, WAITING
THE INEVITABLE ...

BUT SUDDENLY IT WAS QUIET AND STILL, A GREAT CALM SETTLING OVER DAVIS' TORTURED BRAIN... THE BEAST SENSED IT TOO... A TRANQUIL WARMTH SPREADING THROUGHOUT THIS MIND UNIVERSE...

NO-NO! IT CAN'T END NOW... I WAS SO CLOSE TO FREEDOM... SO CLOSE!



FOR A TIME, ALL WAS UNMOVING... THEN DAVIS DROPPED INTO A VOID OF DARKNESS, AND ONCE MORE HE HEARD THE DOCTOR'S VOICE FROM FAR...

HE'S BEGINNING TO COME OUT OF IT....



DAVIS' BODY GAVE A SPASMIC JERK AND HE AWOKE WITH A SCREAM, PULLING AGAINST THE STRAPS THAT HELD HIM TO THE BED!

AAAYAHHH!

EASY NOW, MR. DAVIS.... DON'T TRY TO MOVE.... YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALRIGHT... JUST LIE STILL!

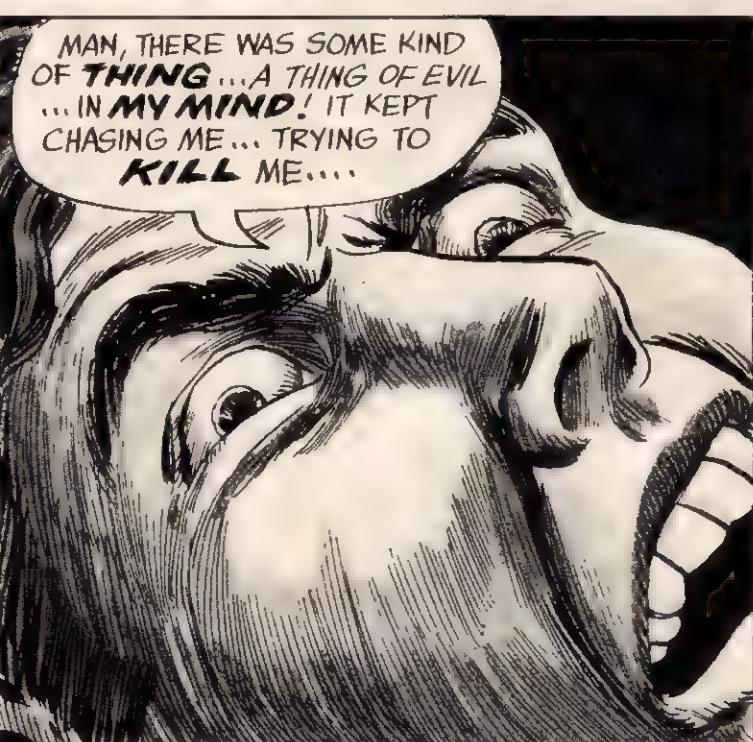


OHAAA!... MY HEAD! MY MIND FEELS LIKE IT'S BLOWING APART...!

YES, YOU WERE REALLY 'FAR OUT,' BUT FORTUNATELY WE WERE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE DRUGS IN YOUR SYSTEM... WE USED A NEW CHEMICAL SOLUTION WE'VE DEVELOPED...



MAN, THERE WAS SOME KIND OF **THING**... A **THING OF EVIL**... IN **MY MIND**! IT KEPT CHASING ME... TRYING TO **KILL** ME....

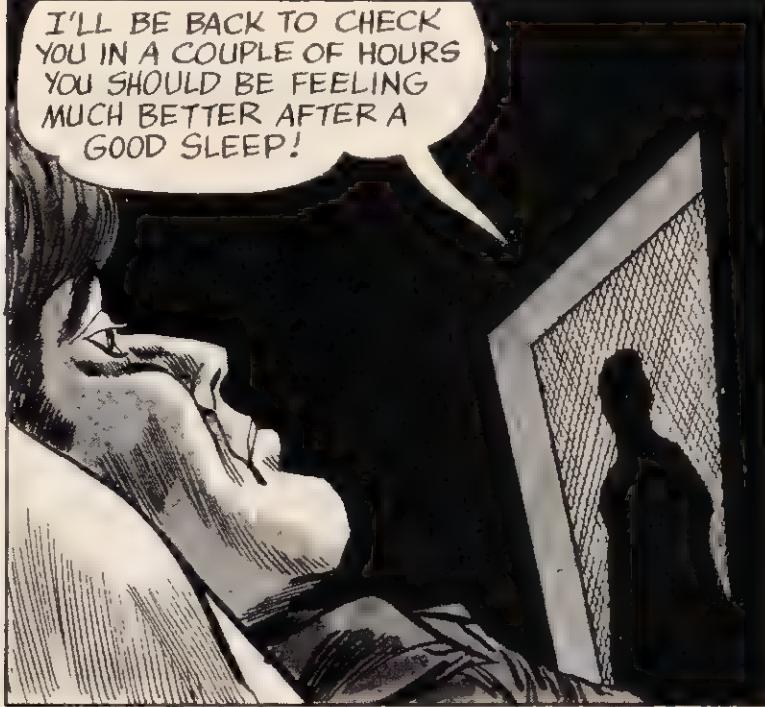


THIS... **THING**... WAS JUST SOMETHING YOUR TORMENTED MIND DREAMED UP... A FIGMENT OF YOUR IMAGINATION !

THIS HYPNOSIS WILL RELAX YOU AND LET YOU SLEEP... AND I'LL REMOVE THE STRAPS SO YOU'LL BE MORE COMFORTABLE.

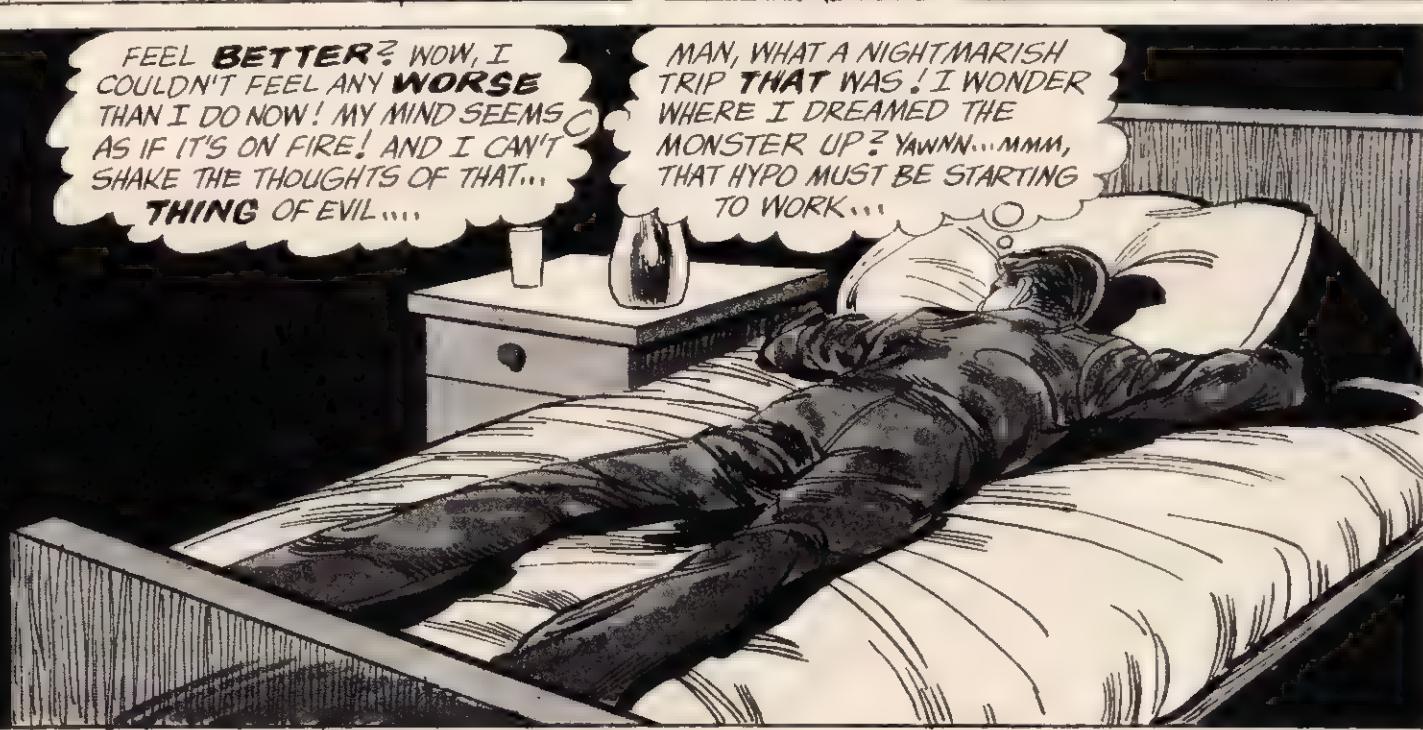


I'LL BE BACK TO CHECK YOU IN A COUPLE OF HOURS. YOU SHOULD BE FEELING MUCH BETTER AFTER A GOOD SLEEP!



FEEL **BETTER**? NOW, I COULDN'T FEEL ANY **WORSE** THAN I DO NOW! MY MIND SEEMS AS IF IT'S ON FIRE! AND I CAN'T SHAKE THE THOUGHTS OF THAT... **THING** OF EVIL....

MAN, WHAT A NIGHTMARISH TRIP **THAT** WAS! I WONDER WHERE I DREAMED THE MONSTER UP? YAWN... MMM, THAT HYPNOSIS MUST BE STARTING TO WORK...



IN A FEW MINUTES, DAVIS WAS ASLEEP... BUT IT WAS AN UNEASY SLEEP... TROUBLED... FEVERED...

THEN... HOW MUCH LATER, HE DID NOT KNOW.... A LOUD NOISE WOKE HIM SUDDENLY....

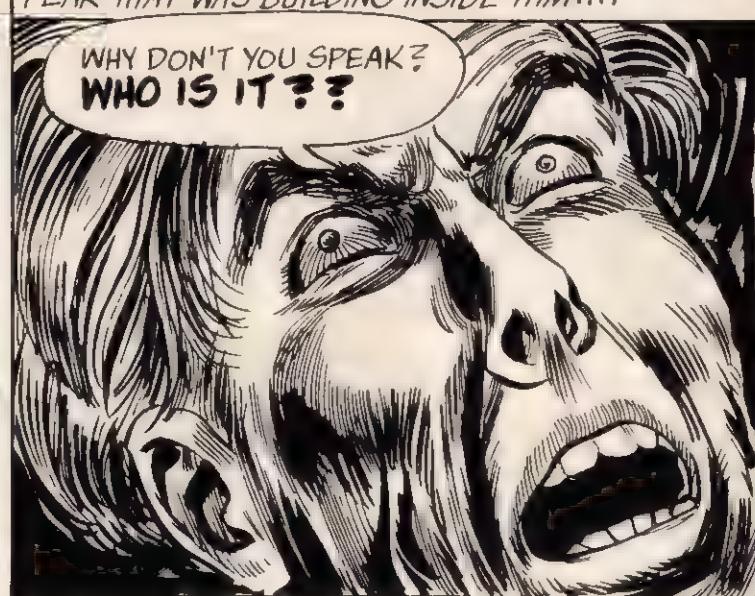


HIS EYES STRAINED THROUGH THE THICK BLACKNESS OF THE ROOM, BARELY MAKING OUT A SHAPE..

THE DARKENED FORM MOVED CLOSER AND DAVIS CALLED OUT AGAIN, HIS VOICE BETRAYING THE FEAR THAT WAS BUILDING INSIDE HIM....

WHO IS IT?
WHO'S THERE?

WHY DON'T YOU SPEAK?
WHO IS IT??



THERE WAS A SOUND... A SICKENING, COLD-TERROR SOUND OF CLICKS... AND THEN THE HULKING SHAPE LOOMED OVER DAVIS' BED, ITS PIERCING EYES GLARING AT HIM, ITS CLAWED-HANDS REACHING DOWN IN DEADLY EMBRACE! WITH SUDDEN HOPELESSNESS, DAVIS REALIZED HIS PSYCHEDELIC-NIGHTMARE HAD BEEN **REAL** ...THE DORMANT THING OF EVIL FROM THE RECESSES OF HIS INNER-BEING NOW HAD FORM... AND WAS **FREE**!



END



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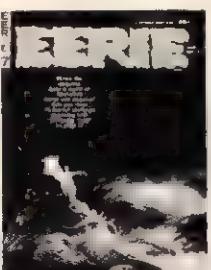
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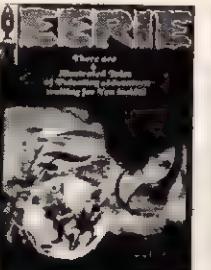
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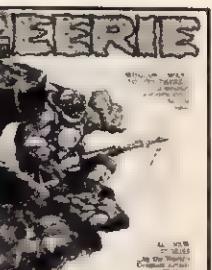


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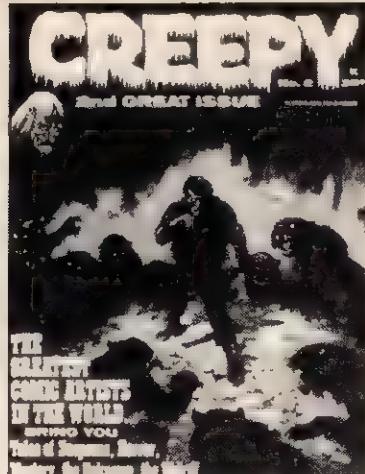
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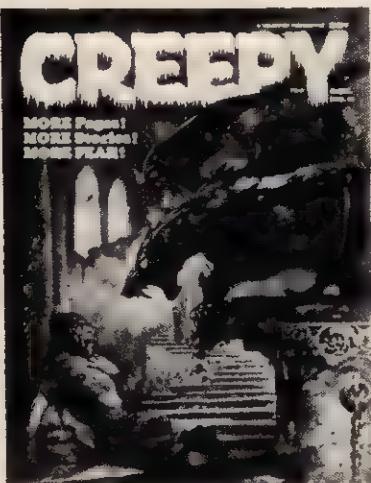
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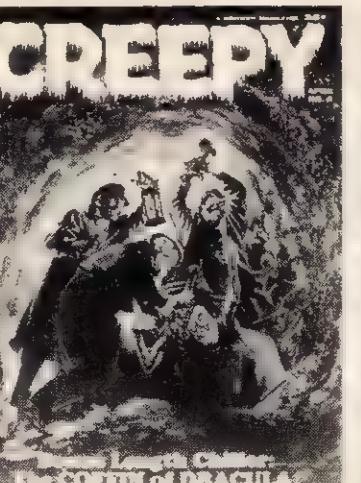
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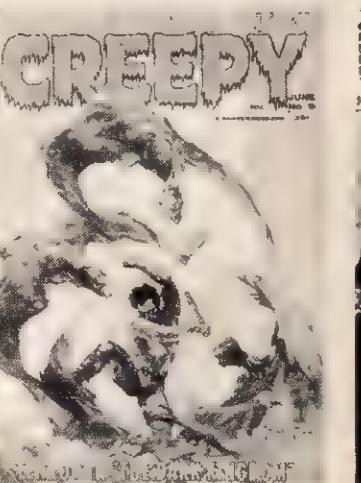
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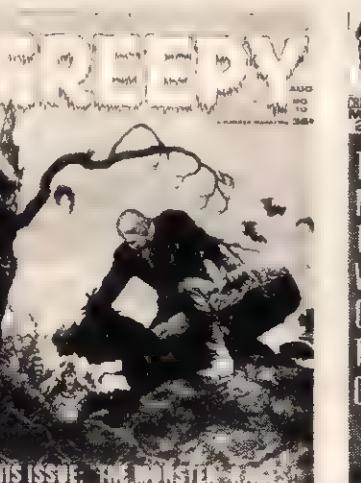
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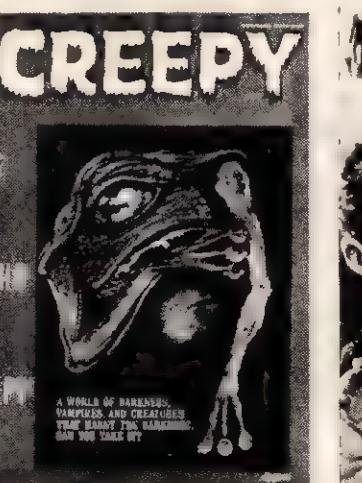
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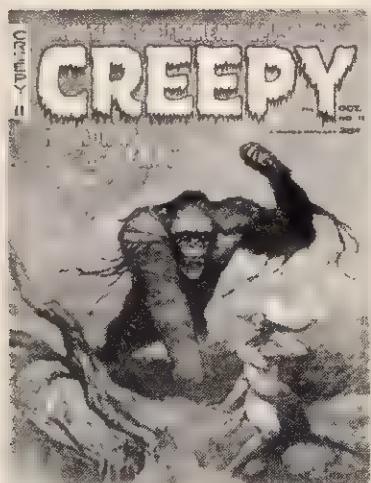
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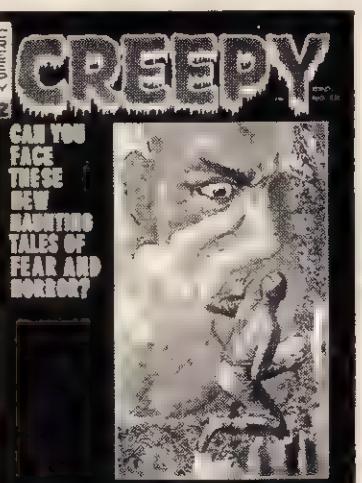
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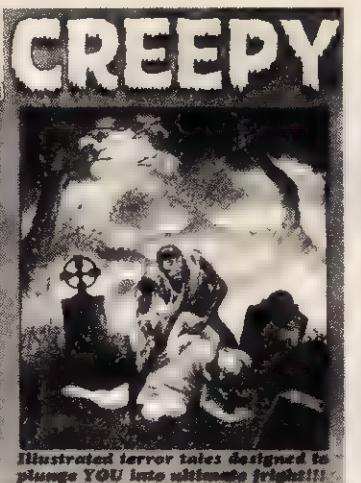
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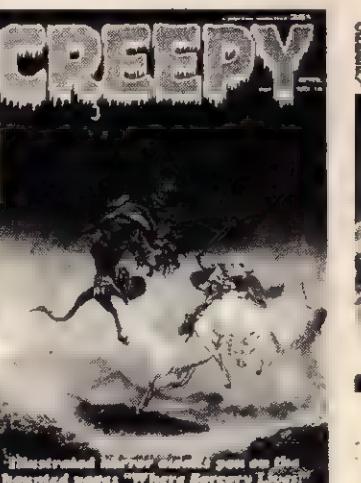
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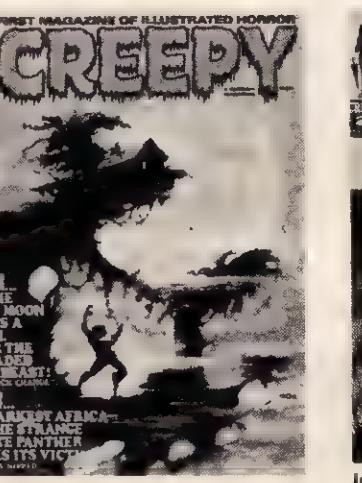
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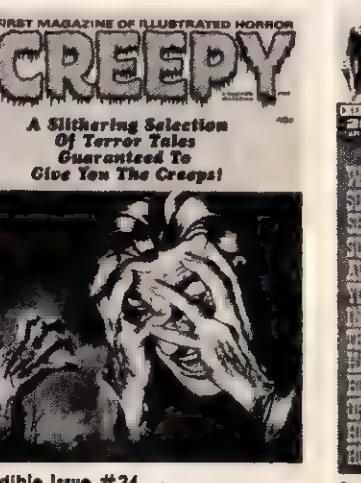
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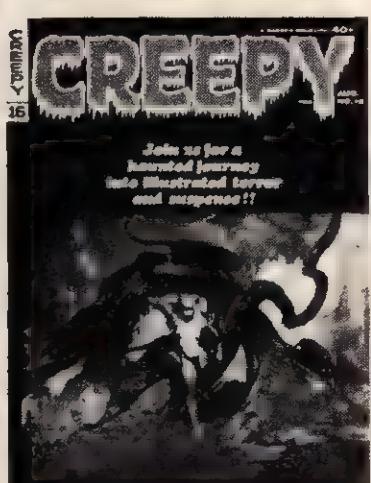
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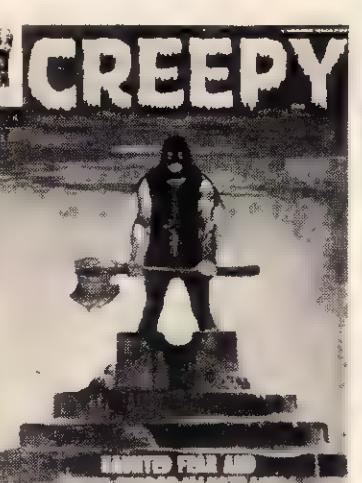
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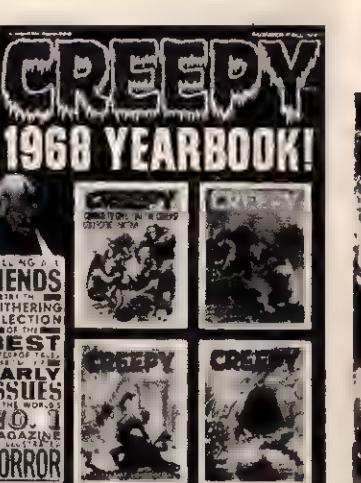
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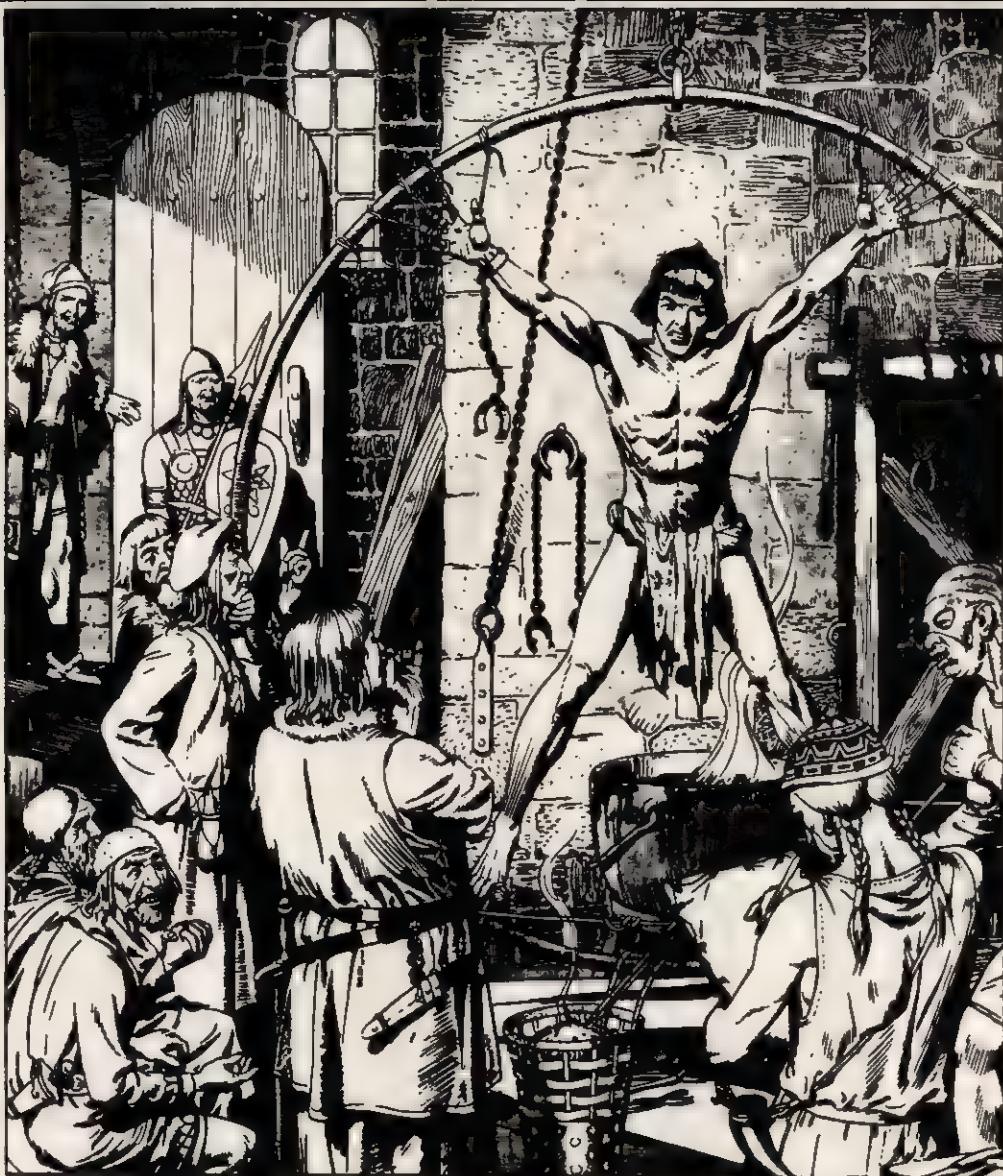
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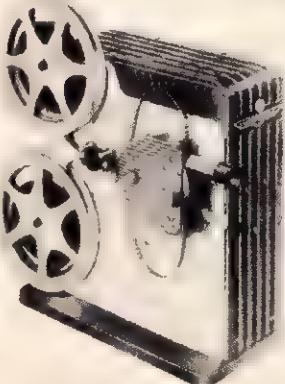
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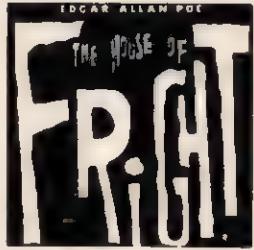
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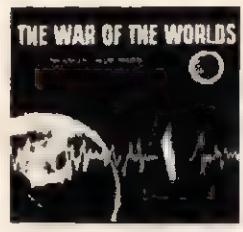
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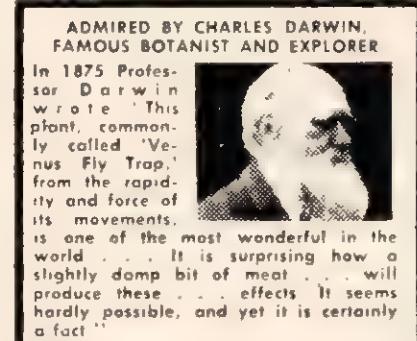
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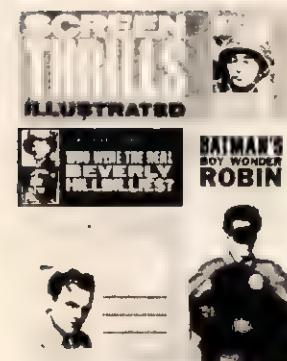
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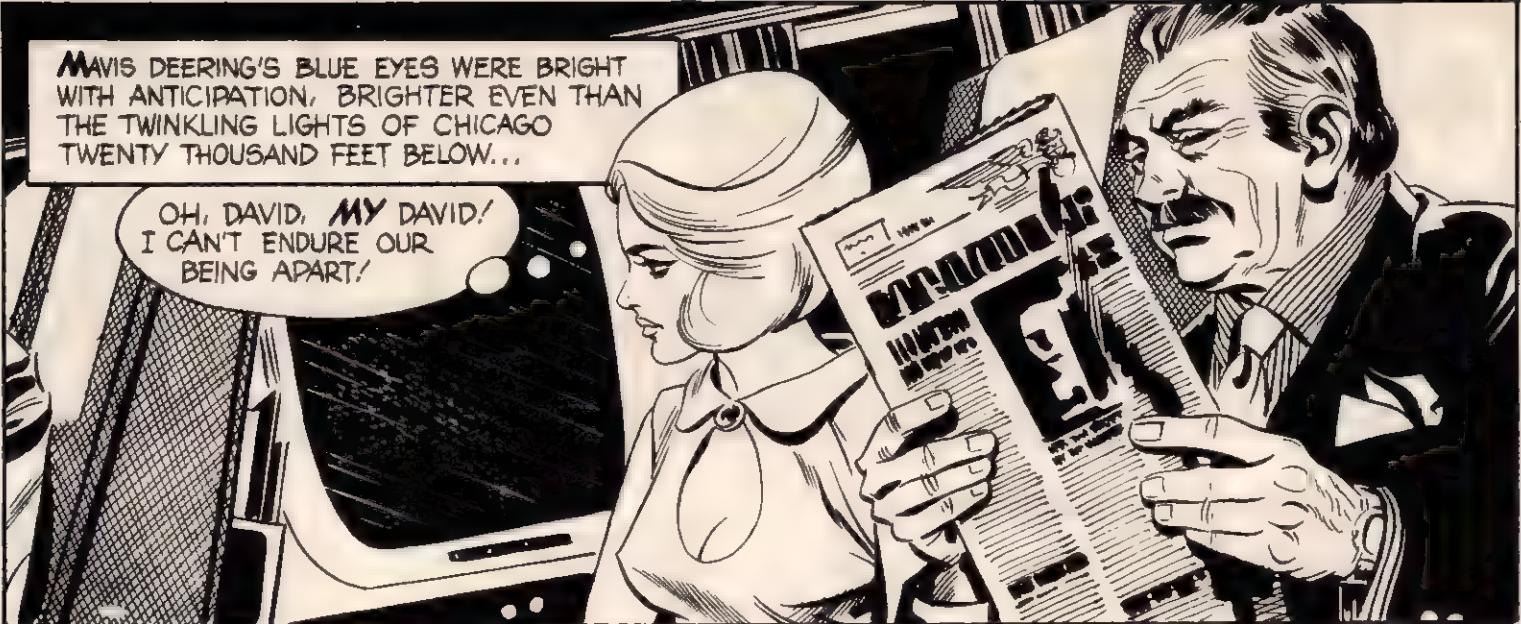
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OH, DAVID, MY DAVID!
I CAN'T ENDURE OUR BEING APART!



THE AIRLINER BANKED, SWEPT EARTHWARD TOWARD THE RUNWAY LIGHTS PRINTED ON THE DARK EARTH...

BUT LIKE A HUNDRED TIMES BEFORE, THE WAITING IS OVER, DAVID! AGAIN WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER, TOUCH AND **MAYBE...**



TIRES SCREECHED UPON WET CONCRETE! THE JET TAXIED TOWARD THE DEBARCATION PLATFORM...

...MAYBE THIS TIME YOU WON'T HAVE TO LET ME GO!



CAREFUL! WATCH YOUR STEP! HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE FLIGHT!

IT'S ALL PLANNED, DAVID! EVERY DETAIL WORKED OUT **PERFECTLY...**



MAVIS!
OVER HERE!
DARLING!

DAVID!



AN HOUR LATER, IN DAVID STEWART'S APARTMENT...

ALL RIGHT NOW, I'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH, **LOVE-BUG!** WHAT'S THIS IDEA OF YOURS THAT YOU'RE SO EXCITED ABOUT?

I WANT YOU TO **KILL ROGER!** IT'S THE **ONLY** WAY! HE'LL **NEVER** GIVE ME A DIVORCE!



WELL, MAVIS ALWAYS HAD BEEN A GIRL WHO KNEW WHAT SHE WANTED... **AND DIDN'T WANT!** NOW SHE WANTED DAVID VERY BADLY, AND DIDN'T WANT HER HUSBAND ROGER AT ALL! HER **SOLUTION**, WHILE HARDLY ORIGINAL, MIGHT HAVE BEEN A **ROARING SUCCESS** HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR ONE **HAIRY DETAIL...**

THE WOLF-MAN

LOVE FOR MAVIS DEERING HAD BROUGHT DAVID STEWART TO THIS REMOTE SUBURB OF DETROIT, BUT ONLY **COLD DETERMINATION** KEPT HIM GOING! HIS HANDS WERE LIKE ICE, CLAMMY WITH SWEAT AS HE SQUEEZED THE TRIGGER! IN ANOTHER INSTANT, A BULLET WOULD CRUSH OUT ROGER DEERING'S LIFE, SCATTERING HIS BRAINS UPON THE WALL AT HIS BACK...



WELL, THERE HE GOES! WE'VE MISSED OUR CHANCE!

THIS CHANCE... BUT WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER... A BETTER ONE!

THANK GOD!

ROGER HAS A MOUNTAIN CABIN! HE GOES THERE EVERY MONTH... AS IF HIS LIFE DEPENDED ON IT! THAT'S WHERE HE'S OFF TO WITH THAT BIT OF CHEAP FLUFF!

MAVIS WAS CLEVER, VERY CLEVER AND EQUALLY PERSUASIVE! HER CARESSES MELTED DAVID'S PROTESTS SO THAT, BY THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

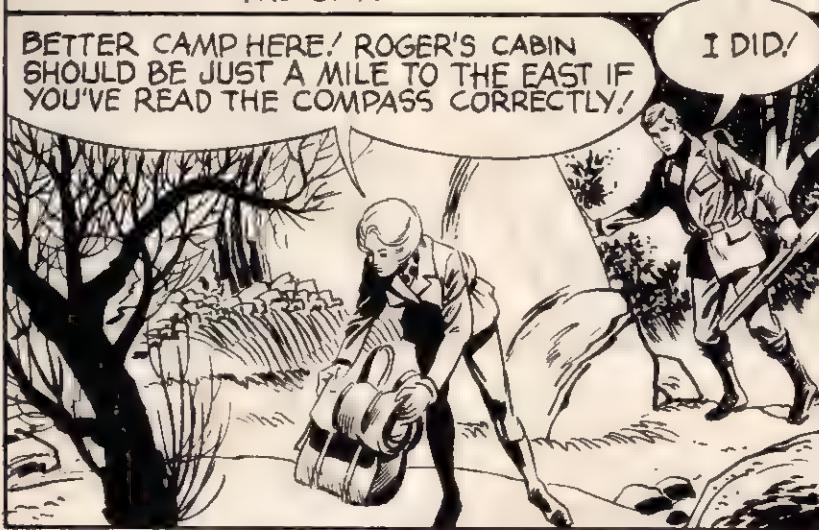
WE'LL LEAVE THE CAR HERE AND WALK OVERLAND TO COME UP ON ROGER'S CABIN FROM BEHIND!



THE TWO WOULD-BE MURDERERS HIKED ALL DAY THROUGH THE AUTUMN WOODS/ THEN AS EVENING BLACKENED THE SKY...

BETTER CAMP HERE! ROGER'S CABIN SHOULD BE JUST A MILE TO THE EAST IF YOU'VE READ THE COMPASS CORRECTLY!

I DID!



INKY DARKNESS CAME AND WITH IT...

WOLVES! MUST BE A WHOLE PACK OUT THERE!

RELAX! DARLING! THEY'LL STAY CLEAR OF OUR FIRE!



DAVID! WHAT WAS IT?!!
WHAT DID YOU SEE!?!

A WOLF... BIGGEST
I EVER SAW! HE WAS
WATCHING US LIKE...
LIKE A MAN WOULD!

HA, HA! WHAT A LIVELY
IMAGINATION YOU'VE GOT!
YOU'RE AS BAD AS THAT
FOOL ROGER!

WHAT
ABOUT
ROGER?
HOW AM
I...

I MEAN, YOU BOTH GET SO
EXCITED ABOUT **WOLVES**! ROGER
USED TO BABBLE ABOUT THEM
INCESSANTLY! HE EVEN BOUGHT
BOOKS ABOUT **WEREWOLVES**,
OF ALL THINGS!

IT ALL BEGAN A YEAR AGO, AFTER ROGER
RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO **GERMANY**!
HE CLAIMED HE HAD EVIDENCE THAT
WEREWOLF LEGENDS HAD A
FOUNDATION IN FACT!

AND SO?

AND SO I LAUGHED AT HIM.
WHAT ELSE? HE STOPPED TALKING
ABOUT SUCH **NONSENSE**!

AND HE BEGAN COMING
UP TO HIS CABIN EVERY
MONTH... **ALONE**?

WHY YES!
NOW THAT I
THINK OF
IT...

THEN YOUR HUSBAND
MUST BE UP TO
SOMETHING,
OR...

OR? HA, HA! COME NOW,
DAVID! YOU'RE NOT REALLY
SUGGESTING THAT ROGER
COMES UP HERE TO TURN
INTO A **WEREWOLF**!??



MORNING DAWNED! SOMBER, SLATE-GREY CLOUDS PROMISED RAIN...

HURRY, DAVID! WE'LL TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE!

SHOOT THEM IN THE BACK, I SUPPOSE?

AN HOUR LATER, THE CABIN CAME INTO VIEW, AND...

THERE! ROGER'S GIRLFRIEND!

AND THE WOLF! THE SAME ONE I SAW LAST NIGHT!

DRIVEN BY AN IMPULSE OF CRAWLING FEAR, DAVID FIRED THE RIFLE, AGAIN AND AGAIN...

DAVID, YOU FOOL! WE'LL NEVER GET ROGER IF...

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!



BUT, TO MAVIS' SURPRISE...

YOU'VE KILLED HIM! ROGER! OH, ROGER...
=SOB=

SORRY, DEARIE! BUT DON'T CRY! YOU'LL BE KEEPING HIM COMPANY SOON ENOUGH!

MAVIS! DON'T!



WELL, DAVID, THAT'S THAT! NOW I'M A WIDOW!

A COLD-BLOODED WIDOW! DON'T YOU FEEL ANYTHING? WE'VE JUST MURDERED TWO PEOPLE!



I DID IT FOR US DAVID! NOW WE CAN BE MARRIED... BE TOGETHER ALWAYS!

MUST BE A DRINK SOMEWHERE IN THE HOUSE! GOD KNOWS I NEED IT!



MAVIS FOLLOWED DAVID INSIDE, TO FIND...

WELL, WELL! ISN'T THIS INTERESTING... A TAPE RECORDER, STILL RUNNING!



MAVIS TAPPED THE REWIND BUTTON, THEN REPLAY...

HURRY, ROGER! THERE'S NO TIME TO REPAIR THE CIRCUIT! WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE CAR BEFORE YOUR WIFE AND THAT KILLER GET HERE!



THE RECORDER BECAME FILLED WITH THE SOUNDS OF HURTING FEET, MUFFLED WORDS, GROWLS, THEN...



MAVIS AGAIN PUSHED THE REWIND, THIS TIME FULLY REWINDING THE TAPE BEFORE PRESSING REPLAY...

I'M ELATED... DOUBLY SO BECAUSE NOW I HAVE CAROL TO SHARE MY HAPPINESS! AT LAST I'VE MADE A BREAKTHROUGH... GONE FROM VAGUE MYTH TO THEORY TO FACT...



... AND NOW THE TASK IS DONE! I, A SCIENTIST, HAVE THE MOST IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE THAT THE MYTHICAL WEREWOLF DID EXIST IN THE PAST...



... AND PROBABLY STILL...



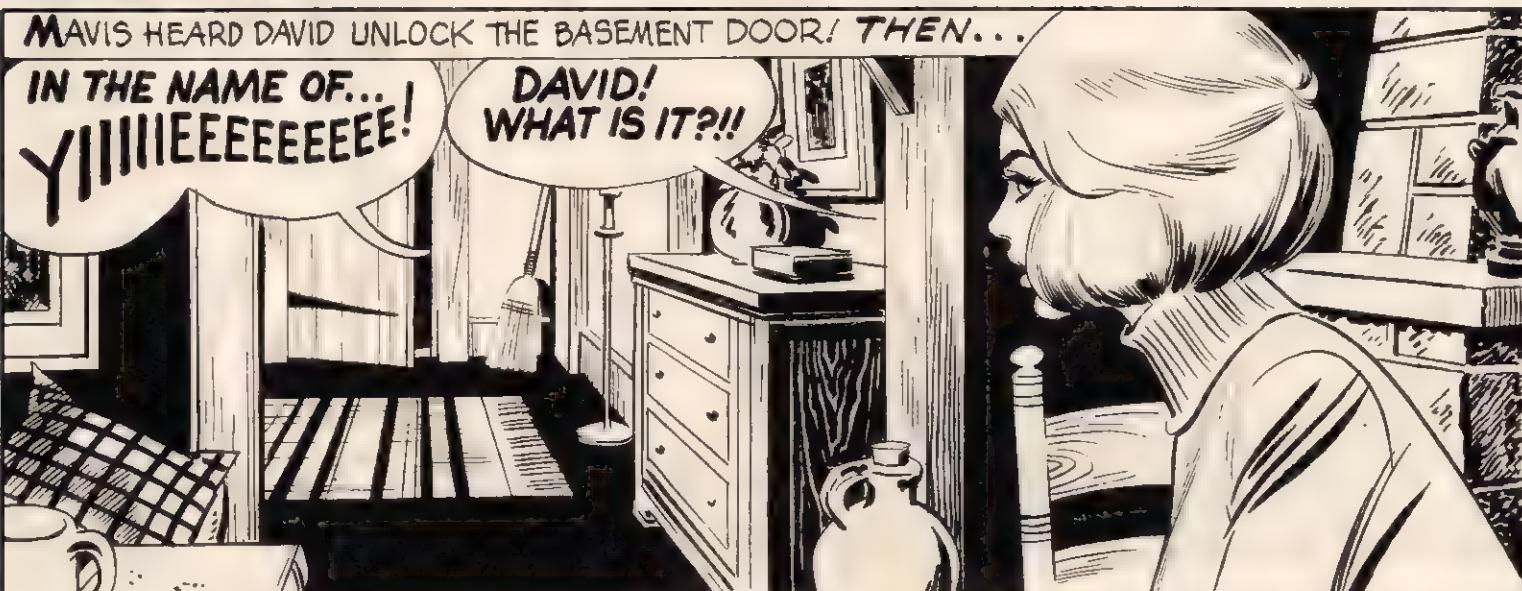
DAVID! COME HERE! I WANT YOU TO HEAR THIS!

IN A MINUTE! I'VE FOUND THE DOOR TO THE BASEMENT! YOUR HUSBAND KEEP A BOTTLE DOWN HERE?

MAVIS HEARD DAVID UNLOCK THE BASEMENT DOOR! THEN...

IN THE NAME OF... YEEEEE!

DAVID! WHAT IS IT?!!



MAVIS RAN INTO THE BACK HALLWAY, TO THE OPEN BASEMENT DOOR...

NO! YOU'RE DEAD!
YOU CAN'T...

BUT THE **THING** THAT WAS NOW **ROGER DEERING** ONLY GLANCED UP FROM THE **BODY** IT WAS **NAWING HUNGRILY...**



YOU...YOU MONSTER
YOU'VE KILLED MY DAVID!

GURRRR...



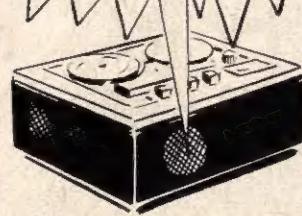
THEN ROGER LEAPED UP THE STAIRS TOWARD MAVIS, HIS FACE TWISTED INTO A **WOLFISH SNARL...**

RAAWR!

STAY BACK! KEEP AWAY
FROM...SHRIEEEEEK!



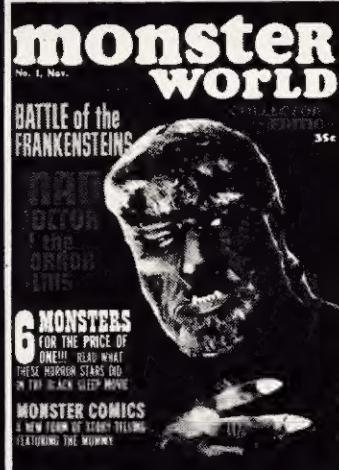
... WITH **MY MACHINE**, I'VE TRANSFERRED **MY MIND** INTO A **WOLF'S BODY** AND AT THE SAME TIME TRANSFERRED THE **WOLF'S MIND** INTO **MY BODY!** I CAN'T SAY HOW THE **WOLF FEELS** IN **MY FORM**, BUT FOR **MYSELF**, THE **EXPERIENCE** IS A **FASCINATING ONE!** TONIGHT I INTEND TO MAKE THE TRANSFER ONCE AGAIN AND...



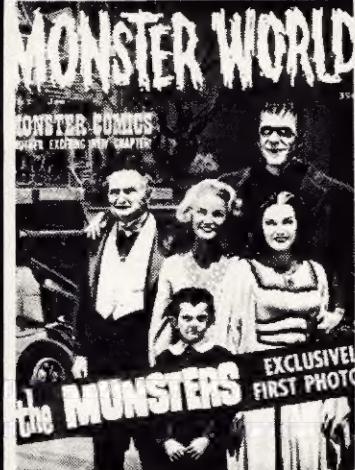
WELL, DEAR ROGER ALWAYS WAS IN THE HABIT OF **WOLFYING** DOWN HIS FOOD! BUT NOW, **FANG FANS**, HE'S REALLY GOT AN **EXCUSE!**



THE END



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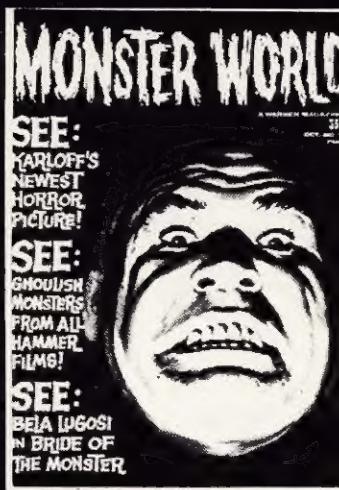
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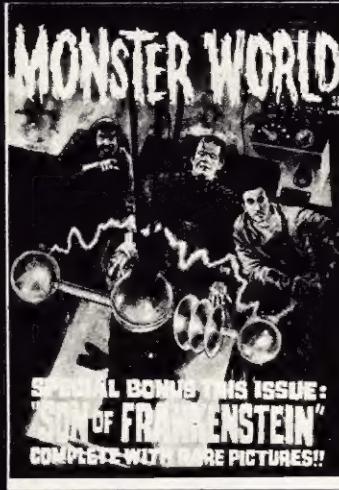
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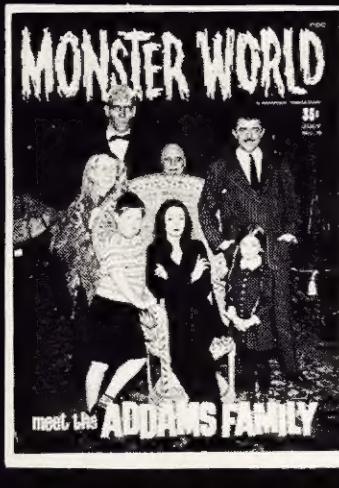
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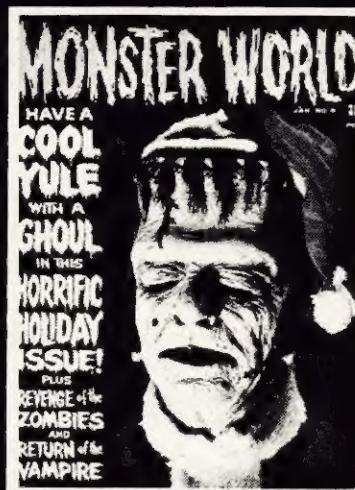
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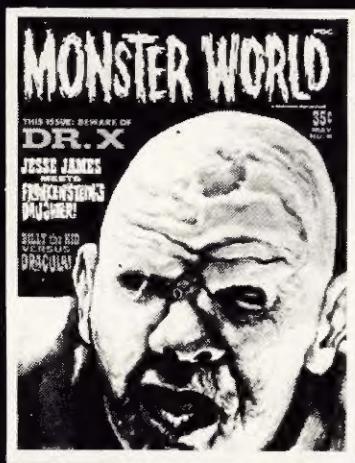
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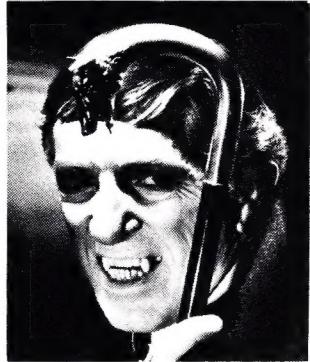
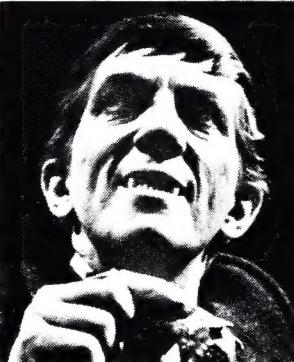
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